

Husband and wife meet at their marriage ceremony

SYDNEY — A bride and groom met at their marriage ceremony at the Sydney City Hall on Saturday. The bride, Yolanda King, was wearing a white dress and the groom, Martin King, was wearing a suit. They were surrounded by family and friends.

Yolanda King joins cast of a TV movie

LOS ANGELES — Yolanda King, daughter of the late Martin Luther King Jr., has joined the cast of a new TV movie. The movie, titled 'The King of Hearts', is a biographical drama about the life of King. Yolanda will be playing the role of Coretta Scott King.

Hashish and marijuana sold in ice cream truck

NEW YORK — A police officer in New York City has arrested a man for selling hashish and marijuana from an ice cream truck. The man, who was 35 years old, was charged with possession of controlled substances.

Escalante breaks the record

SAN FRANCISCO — A record was broken at the Escalante National Monument in Utah. A group of hikers completed a 100-mile trek in less than 10 days, setting a new record for the area.

Entertainers make their versions of Beatles songs

LOS ANGELES — Several entertainers have released their own versions of Beatles songs. The songs are part of a new album titled 'Beatles Remixed'. The album features covers of classic Beatles hits by modern artists.

Maradona a divine choice as a coach

MENDEL — Diego Maradona has been chosen as the new coach of the Argentine national football team. The choice was announced by the Argentine Football Association. Maradona is a former world champion player and is widely respected in the football world.

Regent visits 5th Armoured Division

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday made an inspection tour of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division and listened to a briefing on military training programmes. Accompanied by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, the Regent watched military drills with live ammunition. The Regent inspected the troops and reassured them about the health condition of His Majesty King Hussein.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي



Volume 23 Number 6935

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1998, JUMADA I 15, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

In largest Japanese grant to Kingdom: \$63m designated to double output of Zai water treatment station

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — Japan on Saturday granted Jordan \$63 million to fund the second stage of expanding the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP) to double water supply to the Greater Amman area.

This stage aims to increase the ZWP's capacity to 90 million cubic metres per year and develop the four pumping stations situated between Deir Alla and Zai. It is scheduled to be completed by 2002.

"The grant will help improve the water supply situation in Greater Amman and ease supply restrictions during summer. It will also end reliance on water tankers and benefit more than half of the Kingdom's population," said a Japanese statement.

In May, Japan funded the \$11.3 million first stage of ZWP expansion which improved the transfer of water from the King Abdullah Canal via the plant, ensuring 4.5 million cubic metres a year.

The assistance also includes dispatching Jor-

danian government officials involved in water treatment to Japan for orientation and training in advanced technology of water monitoring, treatment and supply.

"I have learnt that the government of Jordan is taking necessary measures to solve the water crisis," said the Ambassador to Amman Koichi Matsumoto who signed the agreement with the Minister of Planning Nabil Ammari.

"In order to support this, the government of Japan would like to extend as much assistance as possible."

According to embassy Second Secretary and Economic Attaché Masaya Tanaka, the donation is "the biggest Japanese grant to Jordan, the third in the Middle East and the 9th in the world."

According to the Ministry of Planning, since 1995 Japan has granted Jordan's water sector a total of \$81 million.

Meanwhile, the Water Authority Secretary General Qusai Quteishat, who attended the grant-signing



Secretary General of the Water Authority, Qusai Quteishat and Japanese envoy to Amman Koichi Matsumoto, Saturday, sign the accord in which Japan grants the Kingdom \$63 million designated to develop the Zai Water Treatment Plant (Photo by Yusef Allan)

ceremony, said the ZWP started pumping water supplies at full capacity a week ago.

ZWP, which was forced to slowdown pumping operations during the water crisis, normally supplies

around 40 per cent of Amman's water needs, pumping 120,000 cubic metres of water per hour.

Yilmaz in Amman today

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz is expected here today for talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations, enhancing military and economic cooperation and combating terrorism. Turkish Ambassador Suha Umar said Saturday.

During his two-day visit, Yilmaz will review with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, recent developments in the peace process between the Palestinians and Israelis.

On his first visit to the Middle East since his Motherland Party assumed office, Yilmaz will be accompanied by a high-ranking delegation which includes 100 businessmen, Umar said.

Among the issues the two sides are expected to tackle is supplying the Kingdom with drinking water as well as extending Turkish experience in the fields of irrigation and agriculture, the ambassador said.

He told the Jordan Times that Turkish businessmen accompanying the premier will discuss with their Jordanian counterparts

prospects of entering into joint ventures especially on irrigation projects, dams and road construction.

"The Jordanian side can make use of Turkish water and irrigation technology. I think it will be more beneficial to have joint ventures in the fields of water and agriculture," he added.

The ambassador said Turkey wants to establish agricultural projects in the south-eastern part of his country "where the bulk of the products can be exported to Jordan and re-exported to other states."

He said Turkey was willing to supply Jordan with water by the use of balloons that can carry water from his country to any part of the Kingdom or through pipelines.

"No Jordanian water official has ever visited Turkey to discuss this issue. We hope the two sides will be able to discuss this project thoroughly," Umar added.

The trade volume between the two states stands at \$190 million, with the balance in favour of Turkey by \$130 million, the ambassador said.

"During their talks with their Jordanian counterparts, the Turkish business delegation will discuss

encouraging Jordanian exports to Turkey to improve the trade deficit," he added.

The Turkish diplomat emphasised that Yilmaz will also discuss the "fight against terrorism" in Jordan adding that Turkey's approach to this campaign is "almost identical" to Jordan's.

"The cooperation in this field would include exchanging information between the two sides," Umar said. He did not elaborate.

During his short tour in the region, Yilmaz is also scheduled to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas where he will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"We are supporting the Palestinian National Authority and President Arafat and we are against Israeli settlement policy and their stand on Jerusalem," the ambassador told the Jordan Times.

"Turkey hopes that present contacts between the two sides will succeed in making a breakthrough in their talks," he added.

World Bank prescribes democracy as secret to healthy economic growth

From Ghaila Alul in Marrakech

WHEN WORLD BANK President James Wolfensohn said here Friday that only with democracy and a civil society can developing countries fulfil sustainable economic growth, he caught Middle East and North African officials, businesspersons and even World Bank employees by surprise.

"This is the first time I hear my boss talk this way," Ismael Diwan, head of the Economic Development Institute at the World Bank told reporters during a round-table discussion at the second Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF).

"It seems that the bank has made a new policy and that this policy has been launched in Marrakech," Diwan said.

But Paul Salem, head of research at the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, an MDF partner institution, said he believed that Wolfensohn's statements were an extension of the bank's decentralisation policy.

"There are people who believe that I get up every morning thinking how to ruin the world," Wolfensohn said in his opening speech to the forum grouping over 400 senior public and private sector leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). "We need the involvement of civil society to ensure that we're [moving towards] the right path. It is hard to

see a civil society in a dictatorial state."

He added that there have been some "encouraging signs" by governments in the MENA region. "Something that we are proud of is that something is growing in this region, which is the growth of civil society," Wolfensohn said.

He said another sign was that eco-

global capital flows and international volatility.

Addressing a plenary session on Friday, Rodrik said the once-conventional economic wisdom that democracy and participation complicate or even retard development and reform should be laid to rest.

He said with more participation and democracy, South Korea and

it will continue seeking help from international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"As a Jordanian it is absolutely imperative that the banner raised by the present government, in particular transparency, be turned into a fact of life. Otherwise, our economy is doomed and institutions such as the World Bank will shed no tears over it."

Yusuf Mansur, director of the Aid Coordination Unit at Jordan's Planning Ministry, said Wolfensohn's message is a call towards promoting both the private and public sectors as cooperating entities in helping to achieve more efficient sustainable development. "This is a more sombre look at economic reform privatisation, decentralisation and governance," said Mansur who delivered a speech on the Jordanian economy at a public-private sector partnerships workshop.

"The message is all in the detail: not to talk about private sector alone and public sector alone, but sustainable entities...through which there will be mechanisms embedded for the sole purpose of maximising possible benefits of public-private partnerships. The links may be eventual meetings, committees of all concerned parties or simply "NGO institutions" i.e. that cross the NGO-GO barriers" (governmental and non-governmental organisation barriers).

'There are people who believe that I get up every morning thinking how to ruin the world'

economic reform programmes have helped to boost private investment compared with the amount of loans provided by global institutions in recent years.

"Seven years ago, private foreign investment in developing countries was \$30 billion a year, while loans from institutions like the World Bank were \$60 billion... Today the stake of international institutions is about \$45 billion while overseas private investments are \$260 billion," he added.

Wolfensohn's message was seconded by Harvard University economist Dany Rodrik who said democracy and participation are particularly important in the current climate of

Thailand responded more constructively than Indonesia to this year's East Asian economic crisis.

Some participants from MENA said, however, the World Bank's message was far-fetched in a region dominated by non-elected regimes.

"The Arab region suffers from a cruel lack of democracy," said Moroccan General Affairs Minister Ahmad Lahlimi who believes the achievement of economic development goes hand-in-hand with the promotion of democracy.

Riad Khouri, head of the Jordanian Economic Development Association, another MDF partner institution, agreed saying while Jordan's economic situation fails to improve

Mystery shrouds N. Korean leader Kim Jong-il

SEOUL (R) — North Korea's Kim Jong-il was groomed by his late father and "Great Leader" Kim Il-sung as the communist world's first dynastic successor, but he remains an enigma to the outside world.

Despite a relentless propaganda barrage, his voice is almost never broadcast, he is rarely photographed and has made only a few known foreign trips to communist countries, all cloaked in secrecy.

North Korea's parliament, meeting on Saturday for the first time in four years, named Kim as head of state. He was re-elected chairman of the powerful Defence Commission and parliament called it the "highest post of the state."

Kim, 36, will seek to improve North Korea's relations with the United States, Japan and other rich non-communist nations to secure the foreign investment and technology transfer his famine-stricken country desperately needs.

The test-firing of the long-range Taepo

Dong missile over the Japanese islands on August 31 has complicated that task.

Japan, reacting with anger, has shut down its aid programmes.

But South Korea has said it will continue its "sunshine policy" of business and cultural contacts with the North.

Parliament's decision on Saturday paves the way for North Korea to engage in wider diplomacy, including a long-delayed summit with rival South Korea, analysts said.

The official press says Kim was born in the deep forests of sacred Mount Paekdu on Feb. 16, 1942 at a secret camp on the Chinese border.

He was the first son born to Kim Il-sung and his first wife and is believed to have spent the 1950-53 Korean war in China later learning to fly while at school in East Germany.

Foreign sources, who have briefly met Kim Jong-il, described him as a short, pudgy, bespectacled figure. According to unconfirmed reports, he has two children.

In the outside world, Kim has a reputation as an unstable playboy who ordered several attacks on South Korean targets.

These included the 1983 Rangoon bomb that killed four ministers of visiting South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, and the 1987 explosion that destroyed a civilian airliner over the Indian Ocean, killing all 115 aboard.

But inside the hermit kingdom his lifestyle resembles the stuff of legends. North Korea's effusive official media have described him as a mix of "Wild Bill" Hickok, with a dash of Mozart and the "Renaissance Man" qualities of a Leonardo Da Vinci.

The Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that Kim, who has flown fighter aircraft, has shown army officers

how to shoot pistols with both hands.

His sensitive side is portrayed by the operas and poetry he has written and from an early age he showed a bent toward scientific inquiry. "When he was a child, he found out why chickens raise their bills when they drink water and why there is no black flower," KCNA said in a report last year.

It did not elaborate. Kim has been groomed to be the leader since at least 1980 when he was made a member of the party politburo and by 1984 state media began referring to him as the "Great Successor."

His father died in 1994. Over the last two years, he has promoted 120 younger officers to general, surrounding himself with loyal cadres. In recent months North Korea has publicly executed more than 50 high-ranking officials, including an army general, the head of South Korea's National Intelligence Service said

in July. North Korea entered a period of deep uncertainty following the collapse of communism in Europe and the break-up of the Soviet Union. Pyongyang's longtime diplomatic patron and armourer, which increased the country's political isolation.

North Korea's most high-profile decision under Kim's leadership since his father's

death was a landmark nuclear pact Pyongyang struck with Washington in November 1994.

Under the \$4.5 billion deal, Washington promised the isolationist state two light-water reactors if Pyongyang would freeze and ultimately dismantle its nuclear programme.

North Korea: 'Substantial progress' with U.S. at talks

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S. and North Korea delegations made "substantial progress" at talks here and are to finalise details next week, the North Korean vice foreign minister said Saturday. "We have come out with substantial progress," said Kim Gye Gwan. He spoke through an interpreter as he emerged from talks with the U.S. delegation, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman, at the U.S. mission to the United Nations. "We have agreed to finalise our meeting next week," Kim added. Kim, who was smiling, declined to provide details of the negotiations after strolling across the street to talk with reporters outside the U.S. mission. But he added: "I think, and I believe I will have another opportunity next week to be able to answer your questions." The talks adjourned here as North Korea's official media announced Kim Jong-il's appointment to a "sacred, important post" as head of the National Defence Commission Saturday. The move effectively gives him all the powers of president without taking the title held by his late father Kim Il-sung.

Anti-settler activists barred from Hebron

NEW DANIEL (AFP) — Israeli security forces stopped a group of Israeli peace activists protesting against the activities of settlers in Hebron from entering the town on Saturday.

Police held up 18 members of the Hebron Solidarity Committee near the Jewish settlement of New Danial just south of Bethlehem as they drove in taxis towards Hebron, and prevented them from proceeding.

Ten or 11 police vans stopped us and declared the

entire Jerusalem to Hebron road a closed military area," the group's leader Israeli lawyer Allegra Pacheco told AFP.

"There was no date on the order and they had to bring the commander to sign it. We will be contesting it," she said.

The group then held a vigil on a nearby hillside and unfurled banners which read "End Apartheid," "Oslo Is Apartheid" and "Settlers Out Of Hebron."

The atmosphere in Hebron has been particularly tense

since the killing of a settler on Aug. 20 in the Jewish settlement of Tel Rumeida in the heart of the old town.

In response the Israeli authorities clamped a nine-day curfew on Palestinians in the areas of the town which they control and enforced a blockade on the whole city stopping residents from leaving.

Militant Jewish settlers also took revenge for the killing by attacking Palestinians and vandalising property.

Iranian VP to travel to Iraq in landmark visit

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi will visit former foe Iraq later this month, the highest-ranking official to make the trip in two decades, an Iranian newspaper reported Saturday.

During the landmark visit, Habibi will sign agreements on the exchange of prisoners from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, war reparations, water sharing, border security and an end to support for each other's opposition groups, the Tehran Times reported.

The paper did not give a date for the visit.

The two sides will also discuss the safety of pilgrims visiting holy sites in Iraq and Iran, it said.

The Iran-Iraq War ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire, but animosity has persisted over a number of issues.

Iran claims Iraq still holds 4,000 prisoners of war while Iraq says Iran is holding about 20,000 prisoners.

Tehran accuses Baghdad of helping Iranian opposition groups and the two sides accuse each other of allowing infiltrators to sneak across their borders for acts of sabotage.

The unresolved murders of two Iranian clerics in Iraq earlier this year also soured relations.

The paper reported that Iraq has agreed to expel the Mujahideen Khalq organisation, an Iranian opposition group operating from bases in Iraq.

Baghdad agreed in July to allow 12,000 Iranian pilgrims to visit the holy Shiite cities of Najaf and Karbala each month and the two sides have agreed on guarantees for their security, the paper said.

Baghdad and Tehran have agreed to implement the U.N. resolution that ended the war, which called for Iraq to pay war damages to Iran, the paper said.

Second group of Iranian pilgrims arrive in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A second group of 934 Iranian pilgrims arrived in Iraq Saturday as part of an agreement between the two former enemies to allow pilgrimages to holy Shiite Muslim shrines.

The first group arrived Thursday, headed to sacred Shiite sites in Baghdad, Najaf and Kerbala, the official news agency INA said.

Iran and Iraq signed an accord July 8 authorising Iranian pilgrims to visit Shiite shrines in Iraq for the first time since the

1980-1988 war between the two neighbours. The accord allows for 3,000 Iranians to visit each week.

The pilgrimages are part of warming relations between the two countries.

A Tehran newspaper reported Saturday that Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi is due to visit Iraq later this month to discuss a normalisation of diplomatic relations.

Habibi will be the highest-ranking Iranian official to visit Iraq since the end of the war.

Qadhafi hails Sudanese violation of U.N. air embargo

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi praised Sudan for violating a U.N. air embargo against his country by flying a Sudanese delegation to Tripoli, the official JANA news agency said Friday.

"The effect produced by the Sudanese airplane which brought a delegation from Khartoum to Tripoli is stronger than the [U.S.] cruise missiles which struck Khartoum," Qadhafi was quoted by JANA as saying.

U.S. missiles destroyed the Al Shifaa pharmaceutical plant in suburban Khartoum August 20 in retaliation for the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania earlier in the month. Washington said the plant was producing a chemical-weapon component.

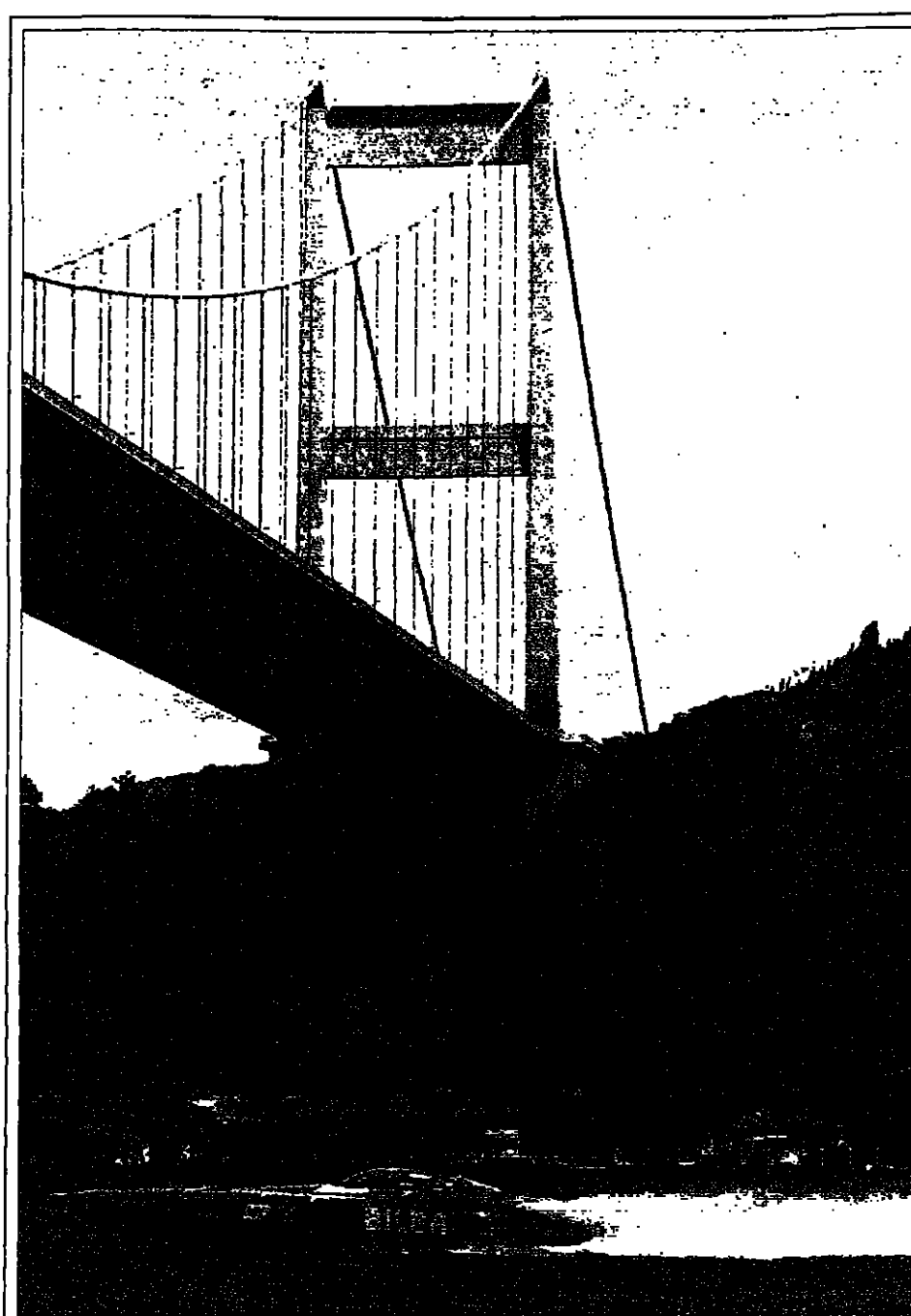
In this "terrorist" attack, the United States wanted "to submit the

Sudanese people to its will, but failed" as was shown by the delegation's flight to Libya on Tuesday in violation of the embargo, Qadhafi said.

JANA said the Libyan president made the remarks Thursday before the Sudanese delegation, which travelled to Libya to participate in ceremonies marking the 29th anniversary of the coup that brought Qadhafi to power.

Libya has been under a U.N. air and military embargo since 1992 for refusing to send to the United States or Britain two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The crash killed 270 people.

The U.N. Security Council voted last week to suspend the sanctions when Libya turns over the suspects for trial in the Netherlands.



POWERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIP IN TURKEY: Defending world champion Laith Pharaon of Saudi Arabia and throtleman Edoardo Polly of Italy accelerate their Seatek powered boat Bilba as they dash Saturday under Istanbul's Fatih Bridge linking the city's European and Asian sides during a pole station race in the Bosphorus. Italy's Bilba took first place with a best time of 13.900 seconds, going 246.04 km per hour in the pole station races. Bilba will start first in tomorrow's World Offshore Championship (Reuters photo)

Egyptian lawyer to help defend Lockerbie defendants

CAIRO (AFP) — A leading Egyptian lawyer said Saturday he had been hired to help defend the two Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, a decade ago, killing 270 people.

"The Libyan authorities have sought my services to defend the two Libyans nationals accused in the Lockerbie case and I've accepted their invitation," said Ragai Attia.

The date and the modalities of the trial have not yet been fixed," he told AFP. "[But] I have begun studying the file."

One of the country's top lawyers, Attia last year represented the two sons of President Hosni Mubarak in a defamation case against a Saudi newspaper.

The United States and Britain agreed recently to a

long-standing Libyan request that the two Libyans suspects "be tried in" the Netherlands but Tripoli has since demanded a number of "guarantees" concerning a trial.

The U.N. Security Council has voted to suspend an air and arms embargo imposed on Libya in 1992 for its refusal to hand over the two suspects if they appear for a trial in the Hague.

Arafat to attend U.N. session

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will travel to New York at the end of this month to attend a session of the U.N. General Assembly, a senior official said on Saturday.

But top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he thought it was unlikely that Arafat would meet President Bill Clinton during his trip to

the United States commencing on Sept. 28.

Asked about the likelihood of a tripartite summit between the United States, Israel and the Palestinians mooted in some quarters to advance the peace process, Erekat told reporters: "That depends on what Ross can achieve."

U.S. special envoy to the

Middle East Dennis Ross is due back in the region on Wednesday for the first time in four months in an effort to revive stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Erekat was speaking in Hebron after a weekly meeting of the Palestinian cabinet was held in the town to show solidarity with townspeople.

Delegation leaves for parliamentary union meeting in Moscow

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation led by Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour leaves today for Moscow to take part in the 100th meeting of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), to be held Sept. 6-12.

According to Srour, who is accompanied by members of the Senate and the Lower House, the IPU agenda includes topics connected with the world's political, social and economic situation, means of protecting human rights in the next century and ways to develop the world's water resources in achieving sustainable development.

Srour, who will deliver Jordan's address at the conference, is accompanied by Senators Mohammad Kilani, Fawaz Abul Ghanam and Assem Ghosheh and Deputies

Fawzi Tueimeh, Rashed Baraiseh, Hashem Waked, Amjad Majali, Adnan Agabawi and Nashaat Hamameh.

Srour said his address will deal with the Middle East and developments in the peace process as well as the role of world parliaments in achieving peace and settling regional conflicts.

He said the delegation will present several working papers to the conference reflecting Jordan's views on economic, political and social matters and will meet parliamentarians from Arab and foreign countries on the sidelines of the conference.

He added that Jordan is a member of the IPU's executive and security committees, which will convene before the conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma inspects QAF centres

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma on Saturday toured Queen Alia Fund centres in Shobak and Ma'an. Princess Basma inspected the Juhir Centre for Social Services, where she opened a market for embroideries. She also visited livestock and agricultural projects. The Princess also inspected a desert reclamation project in the Tafleh governorate.

Rifai returns from NAM summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Senate President Zeid Rifai returned Saturday evening from the 12th Non-Aligned Movement summit in Durban, South Africa. Rifai, who served as His Majesty King Hussein's personal representative, delivered Jordan's address, which tackled Arab, regional and international issues and the country's views in support of NAM and its objectives. Rifai also held a series of meetings with heads of delegations on regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process and support for the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their legitimate rights.

U.S. Navy seizes Iraqi boat

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The U.S. navy boarded and searched an Iraqi boat sailing in Iraqi territorial waters in the Gulf this week, an official newspaper reported Saturday. The boat's captain, Abdul Majid Ghafel, told Al Jumhuriya that his boat was stopped Tuesday while he was taking harbour pilots to the Gulf port of Khor Abdullah. "Seven troops boarded the boat after forcing it to stop in Iraqi territorial waters, and searched it," Ghafel said. "They then forced us at gunpoint to go towards a Canadian boat which was patrolling five nautical miles southwest of Mina Al Bakr where a Canadian force searched the boat again," he said.

Israeli air force raids Hizbollah sites

SIDON (AFP) — Israeli warplanes raided a Hizbollah stronghold in southern Lebanon Saturday. Lebanese police said, without giving an immediate report of casualties. Four aircraft took part in the mid-afternoon attack, firing missiles on Hizbollah positions in Mita and Luzaie in the Iqlim Al Toufah mountain range along the border of the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon. Lebanese army anti-aircraft artillery fired back at the planes but did not hit them, the police said.

Yemen executes soldier for murder

SANAA (AP) — A Yemeni soldier has been executed in a public square for murdering two relatives, a newspaper reported Saturday. Hamad Ali Mohammad was executed by firing squad Thursday in a square in a suburb of the capital Sanaa, the Al Thawra newspaper reported. Mohammad shot his brother-in-law, Yahya Mohammad Ali, and another relative, Hussein Hamad Muneif, in the street outside their home earlier this year following a dispute, the paper reported. A large crowd including government officials and relatives of the victims attended Mohammad's execution, the paper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
15:20 Cartoon — The Pumpkin Patch
15:30 The Adventures of the Black Stallion
16:00 The American Chart Show
17:00 ...Doc... Royal Blood
18:00 Drama — Bonne Esperance
19:00 ...The Journal
19:15 French Programme — Science Magazine (E-M6)
19:30 ...News Headlines
19:35 Life's Most Embarrassing Moments
20:00 ...People Count
20:30 Talk Show — Challenges
21:00 ...Drama — Renegade
22:00 ...News in English
22:30 Mini-series — Pandora's Clock
00:10 The History of Rock and Roll
00:30 ...End of T. X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:49 ...Fajr
06:09 ...Sunrise Duha
12:34 ...Dhuhr
16:08 ...Asr
18:59 ...Maghreb
20:19 ...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4622366 Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Abram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifheh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Normal summer weather condi-

tions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.
Min/Max. temp.
Amman...19/32
Aqaba...25/38
Deserts...17/34
Jordan Valley...25/39
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun...36
Jerash...32
Um Qays...32
Madaba...32
Petra...34
Dead Sea...38

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Asmar...4890504
Dr. Mohammad Abu Sa'ad...5693372
Dr. Mohammad Shugairi...4652693
Dr. Nidal Asmar...4751672
Firas pharmacy...5661912

Al Asema pharmacy...4637055
Nairoukh pharmacy...4623672
Al Salam pharmacy...4636730
Yacoub pharmacy...4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy...4637660
Najib pharmacy...5347632
IRBID:
Dr. Ali Shugairi...7100699
Al Quds pharmacy...4637660
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shahin...995710
Khalifah pharmacy...985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre...4637111
Civil Defence Department...5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue...4630341
Civil Defence Emergency...199
Rescue Police 192...4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade...4617101
Blood Bank...4775121
Highway Police...5343402
Traffic Police...4896390
Public Security Dept...4630321
Hotel Complaints...5605801
Price Complaints...5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints...4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints...4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)...121
Overseas Calls...010250
Central Amman Telephone Repairs...4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs...5661101

Jordan Television...4773111
Radio Jordan...4774111
Water Authority...5680100
J. Electricity Authority...5815615
Electric Power Co...4636381
RJ Flight Information...44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport...44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...091990990
IRBID:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdil...5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5186856
Luzmila...4630195
Khalidi Maternity...4642816
Akileh Maternity...4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...4642362
Malhas, J. Amman...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...5607071
Shmeisani Hospital...5669131
University Hospital...5353444
Al-Mushar Hospital...5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali...5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...477101/3
Al-Bashir...4775111/26
Army, Marka...4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...5402340/50
Amal Hospital...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital...091905560
Ibn Sina Hospital...091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital...09199

Pakistan PM urges Islamists to support Islamic law

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government sought help from Muslim religious scholars Saturday to introduce Islamic law as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's opponents readied a nationwide campaign against the move.

Sharif urged a conference of Islamic scholars in Islamabad to lobby for the bill, that seeks to make the Koran and Sunnah, the sayings of Prophet Mohammad, the supreme law of Pakistan.

Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, met leaders of opposition parties Saturday and decided to launch the campaign against Sharif, whom they accuse of trying to rob the provinces of their constitutional rights.

"We have decided to organise the like-minded parties of the country to launch a movement," Ajmal Khattak, president of the regional Awami National Party, told a news conference.

Critics have accused Sharif of trying to grab complete administrative and constitutional power through the legislation his government introduced in parliament last week.

The government denies

the purpose of the bill is to increase its authority, Sharif said he wants to establish an egalitarian Islamic welfare state and rid Pakistan of crime and corruption.

"My intentions are pure and noble," Sharif told the convention of scholars Saturday. "Islam is my belief, my religion and my destination," he said.

"In the past you used to hold rulers accountable for not implementing Islam. Today I am holding on to you. Come, let us lay the foundation of a peaceful revolution," he said.

Sharif said he would not yield in the face of the increasing opposition against the bill. "I am not a person who backs down. A few months ago God gave us the strength to explode a nuclear device and by the grace of God we are the first Islamic nuclear power. We are not going to retreat from the Islamic path. No threat, no propaganda, no opposition can change our direction."

Defying international opposition, Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests in May in response to similar tests by arch-rival India.

Sharif faces strong resis-

tance to the bill not just from the opposition parties but also from some of the members of his own ruling Pakistan Muslim League.

Non-Muslim members of the Muslim League said the bill would infringe on their rights and create discontent among the four provinces. Muslim League veteran Abdul Hameed Jatoi, father of Liaquat Jatoi, chief minister of Sindh province, was the first member of the ruling party to publicly oppose the bill when formal debate started Friday.

Opponents say certain clauses of the proposed amendment override key constitutional provisions including procedures of how to amend laws and the constitution in the future, giving extraordinary powers to the government.

In Pakistan a constitutional amendment needs separate approval from two thirds of the members of the national assembly and senate (upper house).

But parliamentary sources said Sharif, who came to power through a landslide victory in February 1997, may have just enough support for the bill in the national assembly but lacks the required strength of numbers in the senate.



U.S. President Bill Clinton waves to the crowd before his address to the people of Limerick. The president and first lady met local people in Limerick on the last day of their visit to Ireland (Reuters photo)

Clinton winds up foreign tour with adoring Irish crowd, golf

LIMERICK, Ireland (AFP) — An adoring Irish crowd gave U.S. President Bill Clinton a rousing sendoff Saturday as he ended his foreign tour with a pep talk on peace and prosperity and a round of golf before heading home to mounting political problems.

"We have witnessed a sea change in the lives of the Irish people. The demons of the past are losing their power to divide you," Clinton said in Limerick, where crowds began gathering at dawn.

"And a new and better and more prosperous history is unfolding before you," Clinton said as the sun broke through the rain clouds that had soaked the packed streets of this picturesque town.

Enthusiasm ran high here for the U.S. president, whose visit boosted tourism and national pride, and for his wife Hillary, who got a superstar's welcome and saturation news coverage everywhere she went.

It was a triumphant tour of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic for Clinton, who urged leaders in Belfast Thursday to seize their unique opportunity for peace and told entrepreneurs in Dublin Friday that their country "will have its day in the sun."

Later, Clinton was to indulge in his favourite pastime, teeing off at the world-class Ballyunion golf course. He was forced to take a rain check from a game there in 1995, when he rushed to Germany to

send U.S. troops off to Bosnia. A statue of Clinton in mid-golf swing graces the course, which is known for its high winds and challenging terrain.

Clinton told reporters he was eager to hit the links but would be "sort of laid back" about the game itself.

Clinton's six-day overseas tour, the first since his confession in the White House intern affair, started on a dark day in Moscow Tuesday, when his summit with President Boris Yeltsin was overshadowed by Russia's political and economic crisis.

And it will end on a similar note Saturday night when Air Force One carries Clinton back home to the sex-and-lies scandal that is threatening to topple him.

Twice Clinton had to interrupt his messages of economic reform in Russia and peace and reconciliation in Ireland to answer humiliating questions about his affair with ex-White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Many here in Limerick expressed disgust with the media frenzy over Clinton's personal life and dismay that it has distracted attention from their big day.

But back in Washington, White House aides were in crisis mode over a surprise attack from Clinton's own party which had pundits predicting the president will be forced to resign to avoid impeachment charges.

Clinton himself sought to rescue the situation Friday by uttering the key words "I'm sorry" for the first

time. Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman, one of the most respected congressional members and a long-time Clinton ally, delivered a stunning and damning tirade against Clinton Thursday for his extramarital affair and for failing to deliver an adequate apology.

Two other senior Democratic senators, Bob Kerrey and Patrick Moynihan, immediately joined in the attack which comes just as independent counsel Kenneth Starr is preparing a report to Congress on possible impeachment charges against Clinton.

Clinton denied the affair in a sworn deposition in January but admitted he had a relationship with Lewinsky that was "not appropriate" to Starr's grand jury on Aug. 17. The president contends he did not commit perjury because his January testimony was technically accurate. He denies any coverup attempts.

But Starr is looking into whether Clinton pressured Lewinsky, who was 21 when she began at the White House in 1995, to lie about their liaison and to dispose of evidence, such as his gifts to her.

While Clinton's approval ratings remain high among the public, the mounting attacks from Congress and the continued leaks of his sex life may bring down his numbers as lawmakers consider what his punishment should be.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jospin visits coma-stricken minister

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin paid a visit Saturday to Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, unconscious in hospital since a routine operation three days ago. Officials said Jospin spoke at length with doctors and with the 59-year-old minister's wife. Doctors were reported to have told Jospin that Chevènement's condition was stable. They said Friday that Chevènement, a key figure in France's left-wing government, had begun a slow recovery after suffering a heart attack during surgery. Official sources said he reacted Friday when his name was called or lights were beamed on him. The minister, a long-time ally of Socialist Premier Jospin, fell into the coma Wednesday during a long-planned operation to remove gall stones. An allergic reaction to the anaesthesia provoked a heart attack. The hospital said he was also being treated for shock-related kidney and liver problems.

Omagh bombing claims 29th life

BELFAST (AFP) — A man wounded when a terrorist bomb went off in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh last month died from his injuries in hospital, taking the total death toll to 29, police said Saturday. Police said they wanted to notify his family before making the identity of the latest fatality public. Two women who were also seriously injured in the blast were still in a critical condition, police said. A total of 220 people were injured in the explosion Aug. 15, which the organisation known as the Real IRA claimed responsibility for. The group split from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) last year after the IRA declared a ceasefire allowing its political wing, Sinn Féin, to join peace talks which culminated in a peace deal in April. U.S. President Bill Clinton, who arrived in Ulster for an official three-day visit Thursday, walked through the devastated town of Omagh and met relatives of the 28 people killed in the province's worst ever terrorist attack. In a speech in Belfast, he called on political leaders not to let the chance for peace slip by.

Eight Croat police suspended after death of Italian

ZAGREB (AFP) — Eight Croat police in the southern region of Sibenik were suspended from duty after an Italian who had been injured during questioning died, local press reported Saturday. Five policemen and three officers of higher rank, suspected of "maltreatment during the exercise of their duties," have been temporarily relieved of their duties, the independent Jutarnji List quoted local police, Riccardo Cetina, a 44-year-old doctor from Genoa, was injured Tuesday during police questioning following an incident in a restaurant in Sibenik. He died in hospital Thursday, where he had been admitted in a coma. The Croat interior ministry said it had launched an investigation.

22 dead, 470 injured in Brazil church collapse

SAO PAULO (R) — Twenty-two people were killed and at least 477 injured when a church roof collapsed near Sao Paulo Saturday, authorities said. Some 1,300 worshippers were packed inside the Universal Church in Osasco, a suburb south of Sao Paulo, when support beams gave way and the roof came crashing down, firemen at the scene said. Officials at five area hospitals said 477 were being treated for injuries suffered in the collapse, which occurred about 2 a.m. (0500 GMT) during a late-night service. Doctors said 13 people were in grave condition. Amateur video taken immediately after the collapse and broadcast on local television showed victims trapped in the wood and steel rubble and firemen desperately trying to reach them. Radio reports said the huge wooden structure had been undergoing renovation. "All of the town mobilised to help and it is all under control now," said a fireman in Osasco, who declined to be identified.

Czech arms systems illegally exported to North Korea

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — After the fall of Communism here, the Czech Republic continued to export arms and military equipment to Communist countries, including North Korea, a newspaper reported Saturday. Between 1992 and 1997, a total of 365 military vehicles and other weapons systems were exported to North Korea, China and Slovakia by a Czech company run by a Russian businessman, according to the newspaper Lidove Noviny. The businessman, identified only as A.K., was accused in October of exporting military equipment without a government license and is in custody, the paper said. The chief of staff for the Czech armed forces, Gen. Jiri Sedivy, was quoted as telling the newspaper that illegal arms exports may turn into a "big problem" for the Czech Republic. The chairman of the parliamentary security committee, Petr Necas, said that the sales may harm the Czech Republic's credibility abroad, which rose dramatically after the 1989 "Velvet Revolution" brought down the Communist regime. "Both the army and military intelligence services should be accountable for this," Necas said. "How can you hide the export of 300 (armoured vehicles)?" The defence ministry refused to comment but said it would issue a statement "within a couple of days," the newspaper said. The ministry was closed Saturday and no one was available for comment.

Paper apologises for ad after Swissair crash

ZURICH (R) — A Swiss newspaper apologised for a full-page advertisement it published Saturday recommending a prayer book for people who want to buy cheap airline tickets. The advertisement for the SSR travel agency appeared three days after a Swissair jet plunged into the Atlantic off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people on board, including 41 Swiss. The ad in the weekly magazine that appears in Zurich's Tages-Anzeiger and the Berner Zeitung newspapers showed a black prayerbook with a page marker that read: "Recommended reading for anyone who wants to fly cheaper than with SSR." The Tages-Anzeiger group, SSR and the advertising agency in charge apologised on the paper's front page. "The grave Swissair crash gave a travel advertisement in today's magazine topicality that was by no means intended," the paper said, noting the ad could not be pulled because the insert had already been printed before the crash.

King Sihanouk opens talks aimed at ending political crisis

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AP) — No breakthroughs were reported Saturday on the first day of talks aimed at ending Cambodia's current political crisis, but participants described the meeting's atmosphere as positive.

The meeting, chaired by King Norodom Sihanouk, is being held just a short distance from the famous temples of Angkor Wat in the northwestern province of Siem Reap.

It brings together representatives from three rival political parties, the election committee, and the country's highest appeals body to discuss the stalemate that has followed parliamentary elections in July.

Sihanouk said Saturday the goal of the planned three-day meeting is to find out what concessions rival parties are willing to make so that "calm" can return to Phnom Penh, a new National Assembly can convene and a new government can form.

But he has expressed doubts that the talks will be successful, saying beforehand that the three main parties have so far stubbornly refused to compromise on any of their demands.

"We have not reached a satisfactory solution to any issue yet," said Tol Lah, a representative of the opposition FUNCINPEC party, after the four-hour meeting at Sihanouk's palace. "Although differences remain, the meeting took place in a good and brotherly atmosphere."

"This is not a deadlock.

many issues still need to be discussed and will continue tomorrow," he said. "I have optimism that all parties will do their best to try to find a solution."

Tensions have been mounting in Phnom Penh since the July 26 parliamentary elections.

Cambodian leader Hun Sen's ruling party won a slight majority in the polls, but not the two-thirds needed to form a government on his own.

The leading opposition party, FUNCINPEC, and its ally the Sam Rainsy Party — which together won 58 of 122 seats in the National Assembly — have accused Hun Sen of cheating to ensure victory at the polls.

They have threatened to boycott the new National Assembly if their allegations of fraud — dismissed as baseless by election authorities loyal to Hun Sen — are not properly investigated.

Tol Lah hinted Saturday that if all technical and legal issues regarding election irregularities can be resolved, there might be an informal meeting between the party heads.

However, Say Bory, a representative of the Constitutional Council — which has rejected all protests of election irregularities — said Saturday that the body's rulings were "unappealable."

"The elections came one year after Hun Sen ousted the king's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as co-premier in a bloody coup d'état.

Around-the-clock opposition protests against

Hun Sen and alleged election fraud, which have attracted thousands, entered their 13th day Saturday.

Protests against Hun Sen have been largely peaceful, but angry mobs were reported Friday to have killed as many as five ethnic Vietnamese and severely beaten others, accusing them of being behind a wave of fatal poisonings.

Opposition leaders Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy, who condemned the killings, have in their public speeches played on the anti-Vietnamese prejudices held by many Cambodians.

Though Vietnamese troops toppled the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, a harsh, decade-long occupation followed, exacerbating traditional suspicion and hatred of Vietnam.

Many Cambodians see Hun Sen, who ruled the country during Vietnam's occupation, as too pro-Hanoi, a perception encouraged by his opponents.

In the wake of the killings of the Vietnamese, the government Saturday issued a statement condemning the rallies which they said have "incited racial discrimination and caused violence against ethnic Vietnamese."

The government, "warned opposition parties to immediately stop their anarchical and criminal acts, and their violations of the law."

Mother Teresa commemorated in India, Vatican

CALCUTTA, India (R) — Thousands of poor and destitute people in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta paid tribute Saturday to Mother Teresa on the first anniversary of her death.

The Missionaries of Charity at Calcutta said 8,000 people attended mass at 12 different places in the city.

People also visited the grave of Mother Teresa and offered floral tributes to her. A non-denomina-

tional prayer meeting was held at her house in the morning.

"We ask Mother to pray for each of us... so that we may love the poorest of the poor — in our families and in our neighbourhood," Missionaries of Charity Superior General Sister Nirmala said at the prayer meeting, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Nirmala, who was elected last year as successor to Mother Teresa

said: "This day, she went to God. She remains with God and she is very powerful with God to intercede for us. Pray for us and bless us."

Mother Teresa died of a heart attack at the age of 87 in Calcutta on Sept. 5 last year.

Teresa, who devoted herself to the destitute in the darkest slums, was accorded a state funeral and a day of national mourning usually reserved for heads of

state and government.

The Roman Catholic nun, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace prize, was the target of some unflattering comments for her conservative beliefs and alleged tolerance of suffering.

At the Vatican, homeless people, nuns, diplomats and Italian parliamentarians worshipped together in St. Peter's Basilica to commemorate Mother Teresa.

They attended a solemn

mass officiated by Cardinal Pio Laghi, who was a close friend of Mother Teresa and whom she considered here "spiritual son".

"I know what is in your heart at this moment," Laghi told the congregation in his sermon.

"I know what your feelings are. Certainly we all miss her but we know that although she is not present here she is still with us in a spiritual presence. So, we pray and we

give thanks to God," he said.

The mass was attended by some 200 nuns of the order Mother Teresa founded as well as a number of homeless people whose lifeline is a soup kitchen the nun founded inside the Vatican.

Pope John Paul was due to pay tribute to Mother Teresa later Saturday during a speech to a Roman Catholic youth group at the Vatican.

European Union for additional Western... Sweden and, from

EU to

SALZBURG, Austria — European Union... Austria and... Sweden and, from

There will be no... Austria and... Sweden and, from

At a... Austria and... Sweden and, from

Swiss relative

HALIFAX, N.S. — The... Austria and... Sweden and, from

The family members... Austria and... Sweden and, from

Flight 111, bound for... Austria and... Sweden and, from

The pilot of the... Austria and... Sweden and, from

The McDonnell Douglas... Austria and... Sweden and, from

Although the cause of... Austria and... Sweden and, from

crash is still unknown, K... Austria and... Sweden and, from

Spanish... Austria and... Sweden and, from

ster Lionel Jospin
inister Jean-Pierre
ital since a routine
said Jospin spoke
59-year-old mini-
o have told Jospin
stable. They said
figure in France's
a slow recovery
ing surgery. Official
hen his name was
im. The minister, a
Jospin, fell into the
lanned operation to
action to the anaes-
he hospital said he
related kidney, and

ded when a terroris
land town of Omaha
a hospital, taking the
Saturday. Police said
before making the
ic. Two women who
blast were still in a
total of 220 people
Aug. 15, which the
A claimed responsi-
the Irish Republic
RA declared a case
an Fein, to non peace
de deal in April. U.S.
ved in Uster for ac-
walked through the
et relative of the 2
worst ever terror
ie culled on police
peace ship.

police in the sudan
ed from duty after
ring questioning
Five policemen are
spected of altera-
eir duties. The re-
uties, the judges
e, Riccardo Cerna-
e, was injured. The
wing at the court
in hospital. They
a coma. The court
ed an investigation

two people were killed
a church in Chicago
critics said. The
le the United States
as Pauline, who sup-
f came during the
als at the church
bout 2 a.m. The
Doctors said the
eur video camera
roadcast. The
the wood and the
trying to get the
boden structure
of the tower was
l now. The
identified

API — After the
h Republic of Korea
equipment to the
area, a new report
and 1947. A total of
weapons systems
China and South
1 Russian, 1 Chinese
Lidovs Novos.
s A.K.A. was
ary equipment
a custody. The
ch armed forces
the new report
to a "big project"
man of the
as. said that the
credibility abroad
1989 "Verder
regime. "But the
ices show a
"How can we
icles?" The
but said it would
of days. The
d Saturday

newspaper ap-
published Saturday
r people who want
advertisement for
ee days after a
off Nova Scotia
ding 41 Swiss
appears in Zurich's
ing new-papers
r anyone who
The Tages-Anzeiger
agency in charge
"The grave
nt in today's
as intended. The
re pulled because

World News



European Union foreign ministers arrive for a informal meeting in Salzburg. The ministers are likely to rule out additional Western financial aid for Russia during their meeting this weekend. Left to right: Wolfgang Schuessel (Austria), Jacques Santer (President of the European Commission), Hubert Vedrine (France), Lena Hjelm-Wallén (Sweden) and, from Luxembourg, Jacques Poos (Reuters photo)

EU to rule out extra cash for Russia

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — European Union foreign ministers meeting in Austria this weekend are likely to lay the responsibility for resolving Russia's financial crisis firmly at Moscow's feet and rule out additional Western cash.

"There will be no new money for Russia," one official said ahead of the two-day informal meeting in Salzburg, which will discuss political and economic turmoil in Russia and the crisis in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo where thousands of refugees have fled fighting.

An early draft of a concluding declaration, expected to be published Sunday, urges Russian President Boris Yeltsin to get a functioning government in place as quickly as possible.

"It is our firm conviction that political and economic

stability go hand in hand and are a prerequisite for economic growth in Russia," said a draft obtained by Reuters.

The text may be amended before final adoption.

"We see a continued reform process as an expression of Russia's commitment to democracy and integration into the world economy. The responsibility for these reforms lies with Russia."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the 15-nation bloc did not want to see a return to Soviet-style Communism in Russia.

"We do not want any return to a Communist regime or to the command economy," he told reporters before going to meet his EU partners over lunch.

The draft statement stresses the importance of laying

a solid basis for public revenue through a fair and effective tax system and urges Russia to take action to restore stability to the financial system.

"At the same time the ability of the central bank to conduct an independent, stability-oriented monetary policy will be essential," it says.

"Honouring Russian financial commitments to creditors will be essential in order to regain the confidence of the international investment community."

The European Union's External Relations Commissioner Hans van den Broek said that Russia's priority should be to set up a government.

"Very little can be done until then," he told reporters on arrival.

Yeltsin is locked in conflict with the Russian parlia-

ment, the Duma, which is refusing to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, said the EU needed a coherent common strategy for responding to what he called a "deep systemic crisis" in Russia.

"We should stress our strategic partnership with Russia," he said in a television interview Friday night.

"We do not want Russia to plunge into anarchy and chaos and to become a base for the mafia."

International Monetary Fund stabilisation assistance should be provided not just to Russia but to Ukraine and other eastern European countries, he said.

"A spillover of the crisis could affect us all," Schuessel said.

Swissair president visits relatives of Canada crash victims

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AFP) — The president of Swissair arrived here to meet with relatives of the 229 victims of Flight 111, which crashed off the coast of Halifax Wednesday, leaving no survivors.

"The family members are focused on what happened," Swissair President Ruffery Katz told reporters here. "It is a sombre group of people. It is very difficult for them."

Katz landed late Friday and met in the evening with the relatives.

Flight 111, bound from New York City to Geneva, plunged into the ocean off the coast of Nova Scotia after taking off late Wednesday from New York.

The accident is one of the worst in Canada's airline history.

The pilot of the McDonnell Douglas MD11 aeroplane reported smoke in the cockpit just before the plane went down.

Although the cause of the crash is still unknown, Katz

promised that his company will work closely with the top Canadian investigators looking into the disaster.

Crash victims came from Afghanistan, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Russia, St. Kitts, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Yugoslavia.

After an exhaustive search involving a flotilla of vessels, by late Friday Canadian officials stressed there was no hope of finding survivors.

They focused on pulling the jet's flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the Atlantic.

Authorities said about 60 body bags have been returned with human remains. It remained unclear if all of the bodies would ever be recovered.

The victims died from the impact, coroner John Butt said.

Swissair officials have organised trips later in the

day for victim relatives and friends to Peggy's Cove, the small fishing village 50 kilometres that is the nearest point on land to the crash site.

Katz also said that a private religious ceremony will be held after midday in memory of the crash victims.

Friday Swissair issued the names of passengers and crew, and offered an immediate \$20,000 compensation to the families of the victims.

Friday clusters of friends and relatives of the victims travelled to Peggy's Cove from New York and Europe to mourn their loved ones.

Canadian authorities said that some 800 U.S. and European nationals arrived in Halifax, and about a dozen immediately headed for Peggy's Cove, where they mourned facing the sea.

Friends and relatives will be barred from seeing the remains, said coroner Butt, who was heading efforts to identify the bodies.

Toxicological examinations

at the request of Canada's Transportation Safety Board were also under way on corpses pulled from the water, he said, "to know whether the death was due to ... toxic gas."

Canada's Transportation Safety Board assumed control over the operation — now largely turned over to sonar-equipped surface ships and an ageing submarine — from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

So far the largest bit of wreckage recovered by the Canadian Navy is a piece about the size of an automobile roof, said Lieutenant Commander Glenn Chamberlain, chief spokesman for the Halifax search and rescue service.

It was Canada's second worst aviation disaster. In December 1985, 256 Americans died when a chartered DC-8 carrying members of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division crashed on takeoff at Gander, Newfoundland.

Spanish Socialists urge for peace offer to ETA

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's Socialist Party called on the government Saturday to make a "peace offer" to the armed Basque separatists ETA, by demanding a truce in return for bringing the group into mainstream life.

Socialist secretary general Joaquin Almunia's appeal to right-wing Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar came as the Spanish press speculated on a possible ETA ceasefire prior to the Oct. 25 Basque regional elections.

Speaking to journalists Friday, Almunia stressed that a time-frame needed to

be fixed for such a "peace offer" and urged Aznar to call an immediate meeting of political parties to discuss the initiative.

Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja declined to comment on the Socialist initiative, saying only that things should "not be rushed." There was fierce criticism of a similar announcement earlier this year by the Basque Nationalist Party that they were beginning talks with ETA's political wing to negotiate an end to the Basque conflict.

The Socialist Party initia-

tive came just after ETA's political wing announced its decision to change its name from Herri Batasuna to Euskal Herriarrak (EH, Basque Citizens).

The move was much derided by mainstream national parties, including the Socialists, as an attempt by the separatist party to spruce up its tarnished image ahead of the October elections.

In a separate development, the Madrid-based radio Cadena Ser reported Saturday that in 1979 Spanish secret services protected the French leader of

a group waging a "dirty war" on ETA activists.

The radio said it had obtained an official report showing that secret services, answerable to Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez's centrist government, stopped police investigating the activities of French mercenary Jean-Pierre Cherid.

Cherid, who reportedly killed himself by accident when a car-bomb he had planted in Biarritz misfired in 1984, was considered the leader of a Basque battalion which had led attacks against ETA members.

U.S. steps up efforts to halt human rights violations in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — U.S. officials stepped up efforts Saturday to end the humanitarian crisis and human rights violations in Serbia's restive Kosovo province, where hundreds have been killed or are missing in the six-month-old conflict.

U.S. Senator Bob Dole arrived in Kosovo Saturday, joining U.S. Deputy Secretary for Human Rights John Shattuck in a mission aimed to clarify reports of atrocities in Kosovo.

"We need to stop the killings and stop the carnage," Dole told reporters, adding that he would report the findings of his mission back to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Dole, chairman of the International Commission on Missing Persons, and Shattuck will hold talks with ethnic Albanian and Serbian officials in the province, diplomats said.

"The U.S. believes that all situations involving violations of international humanitarian law in Kosovo should be fully investigated and should be prosecuted by the International Criminal

Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia" (ICTY) in The Hague, Shattuck said.

The State Department said that the two senior officials will investigate reports of atrocities and serious human rights violations in Kosovo at the request of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The issue of missing persons was also to be discussed.

Shattuck said that "random killings and shelling of civilians must stop," as well as "attacks on civilians coming from any corner and violation of international humanitarian law."

The U.S. official said that the ICTY, set up in 1993 by the U.N. Security Council, "has jurisdiction and it is up to it to make the investigation of 'crimes against humanity and war crimes in situations of internal conflict such as this.'"

Shattuck first met with the chairman of the Kosovo (Albanian) Human Rights Committee Pajazit Nushi.

"We are going to gather information about the situation and provide it to the (Belgrade) authorities and the ICTY," Shattuck said.

Nushi called for the com-

mission's jurisdiction to be extended to cover people missing in Kosovo.

The international commission was set up in 1996 to help individuals or groups working to locate thousands of people reported missing in Bosnia and Croatia.

Kosovo has been shaken with violent clashes between Belgrade troops and ethnic Albanian rebels since February.

Serbian authorities say that 118 Serbs are missing and believed to be held hostage by ethnic Albanian separatists, while the Kosovo Albanian Human Rights Committee says around 600 ethnic Albanians have gone missing.

Dole and Shattuck were expected to tour the province during the weekend while Shattuck would later visit the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, where 30,000 ethnic Albanians have taken refuge from the fighting in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia now is made up of Montenegro and Serbia.

International aid agencies estimate that around

230,000 people have fled their homes since February when Belgrade government troops moved into the province to crush a rebellion by ethnic Albanian separatists.

Ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of the Kosovo population.

The visit by Shattuck and Dole follows a series of trips to the province by U.S. officials keen to resolve the conflict, which has claimed the lives of more than 900 people, most of them ethnic Albanians.

In August, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Refugees Julia Taft visited the region and warned of possible humanitarian catastrophe in the province, where thousands of displaced people have been spending weeks in open air after being driven from their homes by the violence.

The U.S. government's humanitarian body USAID will provide \$21.8 million worth of additional food aid for Kosovo's refugees, said Friday Hugh Farmer, assistant administrator for humanitarian response at USAID after visiting the province.

Angola holds key to peace in Congo

ABIDJAN (R) — Angola will be crucial to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, depending on whether President Jose dos Santos maintains troops in a foreign war zone or stays home to fight domestic rebels.

Analysts have said for some time that dos Santos was following a private agenda when he poured thousands of soldiers, armour and aircraft into the former Zaire to help President Laurent Kabila crush a Tutsi-led rebellion.

The aim, they said, was to prevent Angolan opposition movement UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) maintaining bases there from which to relaunch a guerrilla war.

Dos Santos' MPLA party this week ejected UNITA members from the government of national unity, fuelling speculation that

the country was sliding back towards civil war.

If that proves to be the case, there is serious doubt over whether dos Santos will be prepared to wage both a domestic war and a foreign one at the same time.

Accusations that UNITA fighters have sided with the Congolese rebels outside Kinshasa have been rejected by the movement's leaders as a ruse to keep Luanda involved in the Congo civil war.

"It is not true at all. We are not in the Congo and we do not intend to get involved in any way," Secretary-General Paulo Lukamba Gato told Reuters from UNITA headquarters in Bailundo.

The Angolan attack on the rear supply bases of rebels trying to capture Kinshasa from the south west turned the tide of the war, forcing the rebels to

concentrate their efforts on the east of the country.

Kabila and his backers, an alliance of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia, have made much of their preparations to take the war across Africa's third largest country and attack the rebel strongholds.

This strategy has put the muscle behind a surprise call by Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe for a peace summit Sunday and Monday in the picturesque resort of Victoria Falls.

The calculation is blunt but quite simple.

Kabila has to bet that the rebellion will collapse in the face of overwhelming firepower and numbers ready, willing and able to move east and attack them.

For their part, the rebels have to gamble that Angola will be too preoccupied with events at home to pay more than

cursor attention to a battle that poses no risk to their own borders.

If the Angolans chose to stay at home, or at least on their side of the Congo, they would deprive the Kabila alliance of much needed strength and make any peace negotiations a far more evenly-balanced affair.

Added to that calculation, the actual or even threatened withdrawal of the Angolans would strengthen the voices in Zimbabwe that are increasingly criticising Mugabe for getting involved on the Congo conflict in the first place.

As Mugabe admitted earlier this week, without the foreign alliance's intervention, Kabila would have been ousted with even greater ease than he overthrew veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko just 16 months ago.

India town battles worst floods in 60 years

GORAKHPUR, India (R) — Residents of Gorakhpur in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh waded up to their necks in water frothing with sewage as they try to escape the town's worst flooding in 60 years.

Gorakhpur, usually a bustling town, has been swamped by monsooned flooding of the Ghagra River and is just one of many towns in Uttar Pradesh — 47 of the state's 83 districts have been affected — coming to grips with the natural disaster.

"Watch out, there is a big open drain on your left," cautioned a Gorakhpur police official, as I waded and swam through neck-deep water towards a group of people stranded in their houses.

"All we can do is evacuate these people to our relief camps in safer places, but they are unwilling to leave their houses," said one official.

More than 900 people have died and a further half a million have been washed out of their homes in India's most populous state.

Geoffrey Dennis, head of the South Asian delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told

Reuters this week that an area of northern India the size of Switzerland had disappeared under water.

"We had never imagined in our wildest dreams that we would have boats commuting through the city roads," said a bank manager, who has taken refuge in a tin-shed on the roof of his single-storeyed home.

Army Divisional Commissioner Rajiv Gupta said 400-500 army personnel were working in Gorakhpur to evacuate people — at least those willing to leave — from crumbling houses to crowded relief camps at the local university and schools.

"There are mostly well-to-do people living in this Shakti Nagar locality," says one resident. "If people were to leave their homes in this state, the place would be burgled that very night and whatever little is left intact in the upper floor houses or rooftops would be gone."

Alok Verma, a businessman living in the Pratap Nagar district, said conditions in the relief camps were worse than on the rooftops.

"You are just dumped either under a tarpaulin or polythene sheets or in the halls and corridors of the university — and you have cow dung littered

all over since cattle too have taken refuge there," he said.

Officials fear the marooned residents face a threat from outbreaks of cholera and gastroenteritis due to contaminated water.

Food packets dropped by airforce helicopters have included chlorine tablets to tackle the drinking water problem, which is at its most severe in rural areas of the state.

Many who were already sick or who became ill in recent days have been the most difficult to evacuate, especially from areas even boats cannot reach.

Suresh, a young shopkeeper, was seen carrying a sick member of his family from his house in one of the flooded bylanes on an improvised boat made out of a "charpoy" — a string-slung wooden bed — with two inflated inner-tubes tied underneath.

Flooding has also hit the eastern state of Bihar and the northeastern state of Assam.

Flood disasters in China and Bangladesh have left India's flooding calamity relatively unreported around the world.

But for the people of Gorakhpur, close to the border with Nepal, the disaster is very real.

2,000 Kashmiris missing since 1989

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — About 2,000 people have gone missing in the Indian state of Kashmir since a Muslim separatist campaign erupted in 1989, civil activists said here Saturday.

"Parents of the Disappeared", a voluntary group, and rights activists said the vast majority of those missing were Muslims who had been detained by Indian security forces.

"The parents are leading a miserable life, not knowing what to do or where to go for justice," rights activist Pervez Imroz told reporters in the Kashmiri summer capital Srinagar.

"Parents of the Disappeared" was formed last year to trace the growing number of missing persons, mostly young Kashmiris.

Indian troops battling Muslim separatist guerrillas in Kashmir have been accused of widespread human rights abuses, including torture and execution.

But a military spokesman said many of the missing may have gone to Pakistan for military training.

"And in several cases where parents complained people had been picked up by security forces, investigations are on," the spokesman said, adding the number of missing stated by rights activists was an exaggeration.

More than 20,000 people have died since 1989 in the Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975
 جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors
 Abdel Salam Tarawneh

Vice Chairman & Director General
 Mohammad Amad

Executive Editor
 Abdullah Hasanat

Responsible Editor
 Elia Nasrallah

Editorial and Advertising offices
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: Editorial: 5696183, Advertising: 5693337

E-mail: jotimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: http://www.access2arabia.com/jordantimes/

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Situation needs to be defused

"THERE SHALL be war and rumours of war." So goes the old saying, which can be found in a book describing the end of the world. The current situation that has developed between Iran and the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan, while seemingly not the stuff of doomsday material, nevertheless fits the description rather well.

Iran was angered by the alleged kidnapping of 10 diplomats during the Taliban offensive which resulted in the capture of Mazar-e-Sharif and responded by holding a "demonstration" of its military might near the Afghan border. The Taliban, for its part, accuse Iran of interference in Afghan affairs and admit to holding 30 or so truck drivers who were said to be supporting anti-Taliban forces.

Now Iran is speaking of its right to "legitimate defence" in solving the problem, while the Taliban, currently engaged in a war to unify the country, is saying the military exercises threaten Afghanistan's security. As if the situation were not bad enough, with the number of regional players such as Pakistan that already have a stake in the Taliban-Iran standoff, along comes the ubiquitous U.S. with its talk of an "imminent" Iranian assault into Afghanistan.

A number of interesting points arise when all of the recent events, history and rhetoric are digested. One: Both the Taliban and Iran have all but admitted that the diplomats in question are already dead. There will be no heroic jailbreak led by the Revolutionary Guards, nor will any incursion bring the diplomats back to life. Two: Iran is complaining that diplomatic personnel were kidnapped. The Taliban are complaining that Iran is interfering in what it considers its affairs. Put the two together and a situation similar to what happened in Iran about 18 years ago becomes apparent. Three: The U.S. and Pakistan would not sit idly by in the event of any incursion by Iran. Pakistan would probably increase the supply of arms and equipment to the Taliban through supply routes already in place. The U.S., while not on friendly terms with either party, has vigorously been trying to block arch-enemy Iran from several very lucrative energy sector deals. There is more going on than the welfare of 10 people and the U.S. will act, as it did so tragically in the 1980s in Afghanistan, in order to protect its interests.

This is certainly a situation that needs to be defused by non-military means. The people of Afghanistan do not need more war after 20 continuous years of it, while an entire generation of Iranians has come of age since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, which left more than 1 million dead. The first move should be intense mediation on the part of an international body such as the U.N., the Organisation of Islamic Conference, or the Non-Aligned Movement. A good follow-up to this would be ensuring that states are held to international treaties they have signed, which can only happen if and when the U.N. stops serving as a shield to legitimise acts it supposedly stands against.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek dubbed the NAM summit an exercise in futility and ineffectiveness. He loudly doubted if any positive outcomes were to be expected of the noble declaration made at the summit. He said it only helped in as far as Jordanian participation would lead to an enhancement of our external relations with other third world and non-aligned countries. He said that the movement, which was established in the mid-fifties when the world was divided into two armed camps and neutrality and non-alignment was an excellent choice for many developing countries, has now outlived its purpose in the new unipolar world, and the very reason for the NAM's existence has disappeared.

Al Dustour's Yasser Zaara commented on the controversy surrounding Osama Ben Laden, the Saudi millionaire who was recently dubbed "America's public enemy number 1" by the U.S. president. He said that even though some people might disagree with Ben Laden in his choice of tactics or his way of protesting what he sees as injustice, that is no excuse for spreading false and malicious propaganda against his person, as has been the case lately in the conspiracy prone regional press. Zaara said that Ben Laden's ideals are noble, not selfish and that should be commended. He has fought as an ordinary soldier in Afghanistan to oust the Soviet "infidels" from an Islamic country, writes Zaara, and that has earned him the genuine attachment and loyalty of many simple Muslims. Zaara accused Egyptian Islamists of pushing Ben Laden to the point where he is completely cut off from reconciliation with his homeland and has to resort to desperate tactics, which will not help further his goals.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Dr. Fahed Fanek

Myths and growth rates

WHEN THE growth rate is less than one per cent it can't reasonably be estimated to be over five per cent, or five times that much. That is why the revelation that the growth rate in 1996 was 0.8 per cent stunned those who were told that the growth rate in that year was 5.2 per cent. How can any competent committee commit such a blunder and make such an 'off the mark' estimate.

Well, there is another way of looking at it. The discrepancy was not 550 per cent as it seems if we are taking the difference between 5.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent, rather it was between estimating value added at 105.2 or 100.8, i.e. 4.3 per cent, which can happen in a preliminary estimate.

However, the revelation of this discrepancy in the economic growth rate caused great embarrassment to the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali and its economic team. The episode was portrayed as a scandal and played a role in the loss of face and eventual downfall of the government.

The Jordanian press played an effective role in blowing the incident out of proportion, simply because journalists were in confrontation with the government for reasons not related to economic growth, but to the introduction of a new Press and Publications Law, which expands the area considered off-limit to the press and makes punishment

harsher and fines heavier.

Now that the government of Dr. Majali has departed as a result of mishandling several incidents in a spate of crises, it is time to re-evaluate those crises, otherwise the negative impact will affect not only a government, but the country's image and credibility as a whole.

As far as the discrepancy in growth rates is concerned, it is only fair to mention that the government committee has produced such estimates since 1991. Thus, six years worth of preliminary estimates — produced by the committee before year end to the actual figures compiled, two years later, by the Department of Statistics — can be compared.

During these six years no one expected estimated and actual figures to be exactly the same. The variations were positive in three of the six years, namely 1991, 1992, and 1994, and negative in three other years namely 1993, 1995, and 1996.

Taking the six years as a whole, we find that the overall growth over six years amounted to 40.9 per cent according to estimates, and 44.6 per cent according to actual figures. In other words the committee was conservative in general, which rules out bad intent on behalf of the government, or a conscious decision to come up with growth

rates better than reality.

Calculating average growth rate during the first six years under the IMF programme, based on the formula of compound interest rate, we find that economic growth in Jordan was running at an average annual growth rate of 5.9 per cent according to estimates and 6.3 per cent per annum according to actual figures.

One can observe that economic growth in Jordan during the years 1991-1996 was good. It does not indicate a failure on behalf of the stabilisation and adjustment programme as many commentators liked to conclude. As a matter of fact, an annual growth rate of 6.3 per cent a year for six years is far from being a scandal. It is an achievement of which Jordanian governments and the IMF can be proud, not embarrassed.

Unfortunately, the economic team of the previous government was not able to defend itself properly and explain what happened. Their failure was not in substance, but in publicity. It was not only the government that was victimised and later asked to step down: the country as a whole was victimised and its economic image tarnished for the wrong reasons.

Reasons to acquit Lockerbie suspects

By G.H. Jansen

THE LAWYER defending the two Libyans accused of the bombing of Pan American Flight 103, Ibrahim Legwell, has good reasons for putting forward demands about his clients' treatment before advising them to appear for trial before a special court in The Hague. Among these demands are guarantees of a "fair trial and the right to defend themselves and the right to an appeal." Legwell also wants to make certain they will not be taken against their will from the Netherlands by either the U.S. or U.K. their accusers, or extradited following the trial.

And while accepting the principle of handing the men over for trial, Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, made it clear that there should be no "tricks" involved in the handling of the trial. He has good reason to expect "tricks" from their accusers, for Libya, as a country, will stand in the dock alongside these men.

When the jetliner carrying 259 people exploded over the Scottish village of Lockerbie and crashed, killing 11 people on the ground, on December 21st, 1988, U.S. and British officials and pundits charged Iran with the Lockerbie bombing, claiming it had been done in retaliation for the shooting down of an Iranian airliner over the Gulf by a U.S. warship on July 3rd of that year. Responsibility was fixed personally on the then Interior Minister Ali Akbar Motashemi, a radical cleric who supported Shiite Muslim militants holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

Motashemi was said to have commissioned the Damascus-based Palestinian Popular Front General Command group to build the bomb and Libyan

intelligence to place it on the Pan Am plane at Frankfurt. The alleged conspiracy thus embraced three radical states antagonistic to the U.S. — Iran, Syria and Libya.

However, when the indictment was issued on November 13th, 1991, nearly three years after the bombing, two Libyans, Abdul Basset Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhima, alleged to be intelligence agents operating as employees of Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta, were cited as "sole perpetrators." Between the bombing and the indictment the U.S. and Britain learnt that they could not make war on Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait, or launch an Arab-Israeli peace process, without Syrian cooperation and Iranian passive acceptance. So the prosecution was confined to Libya. This is why Qadhafi is concerned about "tricks."

The Libyan motive for the bombing was said to be retaliation for the 1996 U.S. air attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi in which 37 people were killed, including Qadhafi's baby daughter.

The indictment alleges that the Libyans ordered and tested Swiss-made electronic devices for detonating bombs, storing semtex explosives in Malta, purchased clothing for wrapping around the bomb and dispatched the copper-coloured suitcase carrying the bomb from Malta to Frankfurt tagged to be sent to Pan Am 103 as unaccompanied luggage.

But, the revealed forensic, documentary and testimonial evidence assembled against the accused is not conclusive. Unless new convincing evidence is introduced by the prosecution, the Libyans could be acquitted.

The first charge is that the trigger was one of 20 purchased in 1985 by the

accused. But the British expert who examined the fragment found in the wreckage, Mr. Thomas Hayes, said it is too tiny to make a definitive determination. East Germany, a well-known supporter of terrorist groups, also took a delivery of triggers from the same firm. Palestinian intelligence claimed that one of these triggers was bought in Beirut by a freelance bomb maker who built the Pan Am bomb on behalf of Iran.

Second, although the clothing was traced to a Maltese manufacturer, the shopkeeper who allegedly sold the items initially identified a known Palestinian militant who lives in Sweden rather than Al Megrahi, the Libyan said to have made the purchases. The Palestinian was at least six inches taller and 14 years older than the Libyan so there could be no mistaking one for the other. Furthermore, the prosecution and the shopkeeper could not agree on the date of the sale.

Third, a document prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation stated that "there is no concrete indication that any piece of luggage was unloaded from Air Malta 180, sent through the luggage routing system, and then loaded on board Pan Am 103." The FBI concluded that computer print-out evidence submitted by the prosecution was unreliable. The FBI also argued that the case with the bomb could have been transferred from another flight or was "a rogue bag inserted into the system," perhaps by baggage handlers. An Irishman and a Turk on duty on December 21st at the luggage transfer point were given lie detector tests which they both failed; neither were pursued further. (There is circumstantial evidence that a Turkish baggage handler was paid \$25,000 and

flown from Frankfurt to Larnaca in Cyprus where he was whisked away by an official Iranian embassy car).

Furthermore, the indictment does not mention the fact that the bomb itself — made of the high explosive semtex and concealed in a Toshiba transistor radio-cassette player — was similar to a device found by the German police when they arrested 16 members of the Popular Front General Command in October 1988 following a tip-off based on information supplied by the group's bomb maker, Marwan Khreesat. The detainees were released without being charged.

Iran was not the only player on the scene with a motive to bomb an American airliner. But two other possible culprits had a specific interest in that particular flight on that particular day. The first culprits named were Lebanese Shiite militants seeking to eliminate CIA agents planning to rescue the Western hostages: the head of the team, Major Charles McKee, and at least one of his colleagues went down with Pan Am 103. The second culprits suggested were drug smugglers targeting a "sting" operation mounted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration which had an agent carrying a consignment of drugs to Detroit on Pan Am 103.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the prosecution may have a difficult time proving the Libyans guilty as charged. And if this happens, the opportunity to trace the true bombers may have been lost.

The writer is a Nicosia-based freelance journalist specialising in Middle East issues. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Kosovo: Is it another Bosnia?

By Norman Cigar and Paul R. Williams

DESPITE THE political deal on Kosovo that the U.S. seems to be brokering in Belgrade in the wake of the violent crackdown by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's government, the crisis will not likely go away. And, Kosovo looks more and more like a replay of Bosnia. After 250,000 lost their lives in the Bosnian conflict, the international community assured us they would never again make the same policy mistakes, and that they would prevent such atrocities from occurring again in Europe. But, judging from our policy on Kosovo to date, the same cycle of fighting and dying, waves of refugees, and a slide toward genocide are happening again.

Pushing Ibrahim Rugova and other moderate Albanian political leaders into negotiations with Milosevic as we have, while the latter faces no pressure, is a sure recipe for failure. We may succeed in bullying the Albanians into a Dayton-like agreement where they have to accept an offer of a hollow "cultural autonomy." But, that will neither solve the real problem for the Albanians nor bring peace and stability in the long term. The West seems to be operating on the flawed assumption that Milosevic is willing to make meaningful changes to his policy in the absence of military pressure. Instead, Milosevic's vision for the short term is to crush Albanian resistance and offer a flimsy autonomy limited to what he calls "cultural" rights, with no meaningful control envisioned for the majority Albanians. It is a transparent interim scheme geared to ensure international approval and more of the unwor-

able apartheid-like status quo which sparked the insurgency in the first place after almost a decade of unsuccessful peaceful protest. In the long term, many in the Serb elite have promoted a more sinister goal of "population balancing" through mass expulsions, setting the stage for Milosevic to offer a Bosnia-like partition. The Serbs would get Kosovo's rich natural resources while the Albanians would be killed or pushed into the inhospitable mountains or abroad.

It is the savvy Milosevic who has learned most from Bosnia. He has avoided the bombastic threats used by the Bosnian Serb leaders, controls the foreign media's access, and is adept at inveigling unwary foreign negotiators into seeing him as a reasonable guarantor of stability in the Balkans. He concluded correctly that NATO's backtracking was a green light to continue with his crackdown. As long as it is "managed ethnic cleansing," with a few villages at a time being destroyed, Milosevic believes he can operate within the West's level of tolerance for civilian casualties and war crimes. He has been right so far.

Despite initial tough talk, NATO backed down from threats to use force if Milosevic failed to meet its demands to cease the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and did not withdraw the Yugoslav Army and special police from Kosovo. And, the NATO air demonstration over Albania and Macedonia was reminiscent of the ineffective pinprick airstrikes which became symbolic of the U.N.'s impotence in Bosnia.

Instead of fostering a balance to convince Milosevic to negotiate in earnest, NATO concluded that it was easier to put pressure on the weaker Albanian party,

as the international community tried for years with the Bosnian government. NATO pushed to stop funds from Albanians abroad which could go toward supporting the defence of Kosovo. American General Wesley Clark leaned on Croatia not to allow members of its Albanian community to return to Kosovo to fight, and there is even talk of deploying NATO forces to seal Albania's border in order to stem the flow of arms to Kosovo, despite the threat of a quagmire for NATO that implies. This all smacks of an earlier "equal" arms embargo on all parties. As in Bosnia, it has affected only one side, for the Serbian security forces already have all the weapons they require. Dismayed by inaction on the part of the West and faced with the "Warsaw Ghetto dilemma" — either sit by and be liquidated piecemeal or resist and risk massive retaliation — the Kosovo Liberation Army resisted and the Albanian population as a whole has paid a heavy price.

But, it is evident that the international community's policy is not working, as Milosevic pursues his ethnic cleansing, entire villages torched, hundreds and perhaps thousands killed, and over 300,000 refugees. Despite the Serbs' recent military successes and scorched earth policy, there is likely to be continued Albanian resistance in the absence of meaningful political progress. At a minimum, Kosovo would have to regain control over its own affairs, perhaps as Yugoslavia's third republic. Only if Kosovo's moderate Albanian civilian leaders resume control over the local government, police, courts, and economy from the Serbian regime will they be in a position to calm the situation.

NATO's power can still help return sta-

bility to the region by promoting a new arrangement. Most likely, somewhere down the road, the West will have to learn all over again that only the threat of force can bring peace with dictators such as Milosevic.

In Bosnia, the common refrain was that if we had only acted with vigour sooner it would have been easier to stop the war and to avoid much of the suffering. The arguments why force could not be used in Bosnia do not apply. There are no peace keepers as "hostages" or humanitarian aid mission whose safety would be jeopardised. There is no dual control by the U.N. to stymie action. Using air power means there would be no danger of a quagmire for NATO ground forces.

Even if the U.S. and its allies stand by and do nothing, Milosevic may one day conclude that he is unable to win the counterinsurgency. However, he may realise that only after many more civilians have been killed, entire villages and cities gutted, waves of refugees swamp neighbouring countries, and instability spreads throughout the rest of the region. In that case, Milosevic's defeat would also be a defeat for the Albanian population, for ordinary Serbs who want no part of his war, for the international community, and for human rights. Bosnia should have taught us we can do better.

Dr. Norman Cigar is a Senior Associate with the Public International Law and Policy Group, Washington, DC.

Paul R. Williams is Professor of International Law at the American University, Washington, DC.

Features

A movement's malaise

Mired in the past, the non-aligned nations meet without a mission. Can NAM be saved?

By Pranay Gupta

THE 113 countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) are gathering for their triennial summit in Durban, South Africa, at an especially inauspicious time for the grouping. Their collective clout has evaporated and the movement's original objectives of neutrality have been rendered largely irrelevant in the post-cold-war era. The summit was hosted by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa in his last formal role as maestro of an international conference before he leaves office next April. Mandela will no doubt recall the glory years of the movement — the 1950s and 1960s — when titans such as India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Indonesia's Sukarno, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and Yugoslavia's Tito sought to create a third centre of political and economic power consisting of the emerging nations of the natural-resource-rich developing world. NAM summits have always tended to embroider the past. President Man-

del is unlikely to acknowledge that despite its founders' soaring ambition, NAM seldom made a meaningful impact. Most NAM members never fulfilled the promise of rapid economic development, with many states slipping into levels of poverty worse than what existed when NAM's members were charnels of colonial powers. They were largely regarded in Moscow and Washington — and, indeed, much of the West — as shrill ideological wanna-bes who made outrageous demands for foreign aid, trade concessions and transfers of technology. It is understandable if Mandela and his fellow NAM leaders praise their institutional history. But the Durban summiters would be better advised to focus on NAM's current malaise, and to transform the loosely knit institution into a more action-oriented entity. With the end of the cold war and a new era of technology-focused globalisation, NAM — which is still mired in a speedily receding past — has become irrelevant. Here's why:

Outdated agenda. NAM stalwarts continue to talk about pressuring the rich countries to give more aid to the developing world. Their magic mantra: "Aid should be 0.7 per cent of GDP." Only the Netherlands and a couple of Nordic countries have delivered on such aid pledges. The overall foreign-aid figure of \$50 billion has been declining at the rate of 10 per cent annually; foreign private-sector investment in poor countries has scarcely made up for the shortfall, and domestic mobilisation of funds for much-needed economic growth has been slack. NAM members need to fashion more sophisticated mechanisms for cooperating with the private sector; these mechanisms would include creation of new safeguards against the endemic corruption that plagues so many developing countries and turns off potential investors. It is also futile for NAM to hammer the industrialised nations on trade issues: If it wants the rich to open their doors more to developing-country goods,

trade barriers in the poor nations simply must be eliminated. But NAM, rooted in the socialism of Nehru and Nasser, has never been known for championing the competition of the marketplace. Overlap. NAM may be one of the oldest developing-country groupings, but it's not the only one. There's the G-7, ASEAN and the 49-member Commonwealth. Couldn't NAM be converted into a think tank for developing-country concerns, tapping into the formidable intellectual resources of many members? The paucity of well-thought-out positions has often hurt NAM's standing at international conventions on subjects ranging from human rights to population to economic development to health to gender issues. As a result, NAM is forced to lamely — and resentfully — follow the lead of better-informed Western representatives. It's not that Westerners are necessarily smarter; it's that they're usually equipped with better tools for global diplomacy.

New issues. NAM needs to focus more creatively on themes such as nuclear non-proliferation, technology, population growth, AIDS and other health issues, child labour, the abuse of women, international terrorism and private-sector investment. This requires not only willingness to jettison the political liturgy of the past but discussion and dissemination of fresh ideas and proposals. New leadership. The founding giants are all gone now, dead or deposed. Yet the current crop of developing-country leaders has come up with few initiatives to recharge NAM. The outgoing chairman, Colombia, failed conspicuously to provide leadership on global issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, economic disparities, narcotics and trade and refugees. The Africans are reported to disagree with Asians on economic and social issues. The Latin Americans want to focus on debt, which isn't always the priority of other regions. Fiduciary participation remains a problem: Not

long ago, NAM member governments declined to contribute \$1,200 each to convene an informal session. Maybe President Mandela's designated successor, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, will provide a new sense of purpose and fresh direction as South Africa takes over the chairmanship for the next three years. It is tempting to argue that with the end of the cold war, the very notion of non-alignment is not only outdated, it is absurd. But it may not be politically convenient to dismantle a five-decade-old grouping. The Durban summiters might serve their constituents — the overwhelmingly poor citizens of non-aligned countries — well by energising their institution's commitment to moving more rapidly to alleviate their most pressing problem: The degrading poverty that threatens to keep NAM nations in permanent hopelessness.

The writer is editor and publisher of The Earth Times.

New British library geared for future

By Martin Revis

WHEN QUEEN Elizabeth II crossed the forecourt to open the new British Library building on June 25, she walked above London's deepest basement containing 300 kilometres of shelving for 12 million books. The modern complex, which took 15 years to build at a cost of £550 million, stands proudly beside the gothic grandeur of St. Pancras Station in central London. The project is literally a major landmark in the library's 250-year history. Over the past 18 months it has been transferring its collection from the famous domed reading room of the British Museum and other centres in the capital to its new, custom-built home where there are places for 1,200 readers at any one time. At present, researchers wait an average of 20 minutes from placing an order at a computer terminal until a light on their desks signals that the requested volume has arrived in the Humanities Reading Room, the first and largest of 11 to open. Books are delivered from the basement in bar-coded baskets routed to their destinations on motorised roller conveyors similar to those used for handling airport luggage. Typical researchers — scholars, popular authors and students working on theses — may peruse the collection without charge if they can show that the information they require is not available elsewhere. Before their arrival, some will have already

Three free permanent exhibition galleries were opened to the public in May this year. The John Ritblat Gallery contains some of the most renowned written and printed items in the world, including the Magna Carta (of 1215); the letter of King John recording the liberties conceded by him to his subjects; the Lindisfarne Gospels, written and illuminated in honour of God and St. Cuthbert; the Diamond Sutra, the world's earliest dated printed scroll (868); Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623 and the Gutenberg Bible (1455), the first Western printed book using movable type, and a Leonardo da Vinci notebook. Among the maps is that of Gerald Mercator depicting the world (1569) and a 1664 plan of Manhattan island, or New Amsterdam as it was then, presented to the Duke of York and future James II showing the town wall gave its name to Wall Street and the fortifications, or battery, now covered by Battery Park. English ships can be clearly seen in the harbour, emphasising victory over the Dutch. The pages of some of these fragile volumes, exhibited here under glass and previously only handled with special permission by those wearing white gloves, can now be "turned" by visitors moving their fingers across screens displaying computerised simulations. Pages can be examined in detail by placing a "magnifying glass" over minute areas of interest for enlargement by an accompanying text and audio explanation.



obtained details of the sources they seek from their own desk or laptop computers by searching the library's catalogue published for anyone to consult on the World Wide Web. The basement, extending below ground to the depth of a six-storey office block, houses part of a collection of some 150 million separate items of printed and written material spanning three millennia which will all be held at three centres when transfers are completed by mid-1999. The centres will be the building at St. Pancras; the Document Supply Centre at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, northern England; and the Newspaper Library at Collingdale in north London. This year the government is providing some £87 million towards the library's running costs while supplying copied and loaned documents from Wetherby to customers seeking the latest scientific, technical and business information, including patents, is expected to earn at least £35 million. More than a record million documents were delivered by fax and airmail to overseas customers last year. The Wetherby centre draws on collections of 46,000 journals it receives in most languages, several million books, government reports, conference proceedings and doctoral theses composed by scholars at most British universities. Although the public and library users are not admitted to the air-conditioned basement in London for 12 million books, there is plenty above ground to delight the bibliophile. At the heart of the building a 17-metre glass-walled tower displays the 65,000 volume collection of King George III, given to the nation by his son on the understanding that it would be housed "entire and separate" as a working library apart from other books.

In the Pearson Gallery of Living Words next door, the library's collections are interpreted through audiovisual and computerised displays. One section devoted to children's books contains dioramas depicting scenes from such favourites as Robinson Crusoe, Alice in Wonderland and Winnie the Pooh. Books are also provided for children and their parents to sit and read if gallery fatigue threatens. Scientific displays explain major engineering works with models. The Workshop Gallery depicts bookmaking and sound recording from the earliest written documents to the digital revolution of today. Demonstrations of book binding calligraphy and printing are staged and visitors are invited to join in some of the processes such as designing pages for books using the most recent computer publishing technology. Forthcoming events in the expanded exhibition, lecture and conference programme made possible by the facilities of the building include a joint display with the Library of Congress, the Nobel Prizes and the 400th anniversary of the East India Company. The library's collection grows by an average of 8,000 items daily requiring an additional three kilometres of shelving annually. As one of the world's legal deposit libraries, it obtains free copies of every printed publication in the United Kingdom. The Library Board is lobbying the government for this entitlement to be extended to non-print media, so that, in the words of the chief executive, Dr. Brian Lang, its role as the "people's memory" can be fully maintained.

— London Press Service

Russia in Crisis

Russia's great leap into chaos

By Larry Elliott

THE COLLAPSE of the Soviet Union was a sweet moment for the West. All those years of the cold war, of being worried about the Red Army goose-stepping into West Germany were suddenly and spectacularly over. Like all victors in wars, the West had the chance to be generous or vindictive. And like nearly all victors, it chose wrong. At the end of "A People's Tragedy," his monumental study of the Russian Revolution, historian Orlando Figes wrote that "It is by no means a foregone conclusion that the emerging civil societies of the former Soviet bloc will seek to emulate the democratic model. This is no time for the sort of liberal-democratic triumphalism with which the collapse of the Soviet Union was met in many quarters in the West." That is precisely what has happened — an attempt to transform a command economy into a pure market economy overnight. But this, remember, was the end of the 1980s. Mrs. Thatcher was in her pomp, the economies of the West were enjoying a boom, the doctrines of Milton Friedman were being followed everywhere. As such, the Lenins of laissez-faire believed that they could short-circuit the historical process. They were wrong. Free-market Bolshevism has taken Russia to the edge of the abyss. Since 1990, the Russian economy has shrunk by more than 40 per cent as most of the country's woefully inefficient industry has been wiped out by foreign competition. Output of lorries, for example, is down by more than 80 per cent, that of fridges and freezers by more than 70 per cent. But the great leap forward to a market economy has put the state finances under chronic pressure. The failure to pay wages has become so acute that the teachers have gone on strike, and the country has lapsed back into a barter economy, making it difficult to collect taxes — even for the baseball-bat wielding, Balachava bat-wearing heavies sent in by the government to persuade those in arrears to cough up. For those visitors taking snaps of St. Basil's cathedral, this gloomy picture may seem at odds with the outward signs of Western prosperity. But as the organisation for economic cooperation and development admits: "The vitality displayed in... Moscow city has certainly nurtured some causal travellers' impressions that Russia as a whole must have done likewise. So far, however, the areas enjoying a sustained upswing are best described as growth islands." At one and the same time as the country is suffering from levels of economic deprivation that would be deemed intolerable in the West, an attempt is being made to implant democracy. The two — breakneck economic transition and democracy — are incompatible, even though this seems to have escaped those in the West who are now accusing Moscow of bringing the crisis on itself. In the same way, presumably, as a laboratory rat brings cancer upon itself by inhaling cigarette smoke. Critics of the West's approach to Russia, including George Soros, argue that the process has been far too fast, that it was obvious from the start that there needed to be something akin to a Marshall Plan for Russia to embed the reform process, that capital mobility and free trade were likely to be self-defeating for an economy as weak and vulnerable as Russia's. "The prevailing trend is still downward, towards disintegration and decay," Soros said in his autobiography. "It was well within the powers of the Western democracies to slow down the disintegration of the Soviet Union and lay the foundations of an open society before the closed society collapsed. All it would have taken was some positive reinforcement for Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika." Soros argues, rightly, that Western assistance to Russia has gone through three phases. "In the first phase, we should have offered assistance, but we didn't. In the second phase, we promised it, but we didn't deliver it. In the third phase, we delivered, but it didn't work."

And so, for all the claims from the disciples of pure laissez-faire that the shock treatment was paying off, the Russian government was faced earlier this month with a situation in which GDP had resumed its decline, with lower oil prices and the global slow-down emanating from Asia leading to a contraction in both May and June. Weak growth plus high debt servicing costs threatened the authorities with a potentially calamitous explosion in external debt, while the austere monetary and fiscal measures required to underpin the ruble simply added to rumbling social unrest, thereby making long-term economic reforms even more difficult. Faced with the choice between the domestic economy and defending the currency, the Yeltsin government chose the former. As did John Major on Black Wednesday. This was sensible, even though there are those who say that the hard-earned gains in the battle to bring down inflation have been tossed away. Given the disinflationary forces at play, both in the Russian and the global economy, this looks as dubious a proposition as it was in Britain in September 1992. The speculators say that Russia is heading up a blind alley and may be cutting itself off from foreign investment. But what investment? According to the OECD, investment is running at 25 per cent of its 1990 level and the average age of plant and machinery is more than 14 years, compared to 9.5 years in 1980. Indeed, Moscow would be well-advised to treat the advice of foreign investors with caution. Altruism is not associated with speculators and they seem a bit miffed that the Russian authorities have wearied of being taken for a ride. As one analyst put it recently: "The measures announced have effectively robbed the speculators of the air they need to breathe. The Russian government has clearly distinguished the needs of the real economy from that of the paper economy. It has exercised its right as a sovereign power to make the rules of the game." If this is so, it may prove to be a

decisive moment. The Russians seem to have stumbled upon a basic premise of the Bretton Woods system — namely that if you have a pegged exchange rate and total capital mobility, you have effectively ceded control of your economy to the speculators abroad and the Mafia bosses at home. One way out of the crisis would be a currency board, under which a country effectively stops having its own autonomous monetary policy and instead adopts that of another nation. To the extent that it would make economic policy more transparent, a currency board would help to rebuild the power and integrity of the state. But Russia's real need is not a stable currency, but a growing economy. Given its vulnerability to commodity prices, it would be better off with a fixed but adjustable exchange rate coupled with controls on capital, perhaps along the lines of those in Chile, where long-term direct investment is welcomed, but short-term flows are penalised. This runs the risk of making the current epidemic of corruption even worse, but this is not a situation in which there are cost-free options. There will be those who say that there is nothing wrong with Russia that more free trade, greater capital mobility and even more financial orthodoxy could not put right. Russia, so the orthodoxy goes, has to seize the moment even if the objective conditions for a market revolution are not absolutely in place. In the meantime, during the transition period there will be a dictatorship of the bond dealers. This approach has been tried once in Russia, with well-documented results. It is in the West's own interests to cut Russia some slack, to recognise that Moscow needs time to muddle through for a bit. For as traders in dealing rooms on Friday afternoon could testify, the Russian menace still threatens the West, even if the Red Army does not.

— The Guardian

In Russia, time really is money

By Boris Bacherz

Agence France Presse

TIME IS money, is a well-known saying and nowhere is this more true than in Russia today. Russians are racing to buy up as many dollars as they can afford so as to exchange them at the last minute for rubles whose value continues to tumble at dizzying speed. "When I went into the exchange bureau, the dollar was trading at 13.80 rubles. One minute later, while I was in the queue, they changed the rate to 14.00 rubles," said Zoran Boich, 34. In a country where the money has lost more than 50 per cent of its value in the space of two weeks and where prices have soared, Russians have their eyes glued to the exchange rates to try to make the most of what little money they have. The golden rule is to buy a maximum of dollars as quickly as possible. "I got my wages yesterday, a total of 10,000 rubles," said Yevgeny, a 29-year-old bank worker who declined to give his surname. "Ever since, I've been going the rounds of the exchange bureaux and I have almost succeeded in converting it all into dollars," he said. Yevgeny, a typical member of the new Russian middle class, with his yellow silk tie and smart blue shirt, said he would use up his dollars one by one, converting just enough into rubles to buy food and other essentials, since the ruble remains the only currency authorised in commercial trading. The dollar is so sought after that it is in very short supply. There again, time is a prime factor. At the two exchange offices in the Kuznetsky Most district in central Moscow, only those who arrive early can hope to convert their rubles before reserves run out. On Thursday, just before 01:00 p.m., an employee shouted out "no more foreign exchange" and immediately the crowd dispersed, rushing out in a frantic quest to find dollars elsewhere. In this way, the more resourceful Muscovites have managed to weather the ruble crisis, by swapping useful addresses or exchanging money among themselves in small groups outside the official exchange bureaux. The ruble rate is changing so fast that keeping proper accounts has become all but impossible for the capital's supermarkets most of which sell mainly imported goods. These shops are selling the merchandise they have in stock without even bothering to adjust their prices, but are not replenishing their shelves and certain articles are now difficult to find. "I am sticking on new price tags because the old ones are too old and torn and the cash desk can't read them but our prices are unchanged," explained Lyudmila Petrova, a 45-year-old saleswoman. However, she said "we have received no new products for two weeks." Time was also not on the side of Yuri Postuykov, a 39-year-old accountant. He left his office during his lunch hour to buy dollars, but he was too late. All the bureaux were empty or closed. The only option for Yuri was to find someone wanting to sell the precious U.S. greenbacks. "Are you coming to sell dollars, I will take them at 14 (rubles)," he said to anyone who approached to knock on the closed door of the exchange bureau. But it was already too late and the ruble was now worth even less than when he left the office. "On Friday, the dollar will be up to 17," a passer-by shouted to Yuri. He was wrong, the dollar was already at 17 rubles on Thursday afternoon.

Jordan succeeds in boosting sales to Eritrea, Portugal and Ethiopia

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — Jordan's exports to new non-traditional markets in eastern Europe and Africa have increased by an average of 600.8 per cent during the first six months of this year compared with the same period in 1997, the head of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) said Saturday.

Farouq Hadidi said exports to Eritrea, Portugal, Uganda, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Hungary, Tanzania and New Zealand reached a total of JD27,548.5 in the first half of 1998 from 7,762.3 during the same period of last year.

In addition to Jordan's traditional exports of phosphate, potash, cement, these new markets imported Jordanian medicine, textiles, detergents and processed foodstuff.

Exports worth JD 904,500 (JD52,100 in '97) to Eritrea grew by 1,636 per cent, the highest growth rate during that period. Portugal came in second place with 1050.7 per cent growth as exports to that country went up from JD49,500 to JD569,600.

Ethiopia was also a good market for Jordanian companies which exported goods valued at a total of JD213,630 during the

first half of this year compared to JD4,399,600 in the same period of 1997. This represented a growth of 385.6 per cent.

Jordan has for years relied on Iraq and Arab Gulf states as its main markets until the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, which turned the business map upside down.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council grouping Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman largely closed their markets to Jordanian exports to avenge Jordan's perceived pro-Iraqi stand in the crisis.

The Iraqi market is still lingering under United Nations-imposed economic sanctions that have excluded U.N.-authorised imports of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

Tough Israeli security measures have also impeded higher trade exchange between Jordan and the lucrative Palestinian market which remains captive to the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, Jordan's exports to traditional markets in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain fell to JD381 million in the first five months of this year from JD403.5 million during the same period last year, according to Central Bank figures.

Hadidi said JEDCO worked hard with the private sector to tap new emerging markets in eastern Europe and Africa.

"South Africa's markets were never approached by Jordanian exporters before," he said.

"JEDCO's participation in the International Cytex Fair enabled several exporters to establish contacts with South African importers," Hadidi added.

He said a delegation of Jordanian businessmen travelled to South Africa to follow up the on contacts established at the fair.

Hadidi said exports to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank grew by 74.2 per cent during the same periods while exports to Israel, rose by 312 per cent.

He pointed out that the private sector played a vital role in promoting Jordanian exports to these countries.

"All growth figures indicate that the more efforts are exerted in promoting our products in these markets the more our exports will increase," Hadidi stressed.

He said JEDCO organised fairs in the West Bank towns of Ramallah in 1996 that was attended by 125 Jordanian industrial firms displaying consumer goods such as furniture, paint and construction-related materi-

als as well as food products.

"The Palestinian markets are important and promising to Jordanian products," Hadidi said. "As Palestine is close to Jordan, this will help reduce the transportation costs while traders there can import goods in batches to lower storage costs."

"Jordanian commodities are well known in these markets," he added.

A Jordanian-Palestinian trade agreement signed in 1996 and ensuing contacts between businessmen in both communities had helped boost trade links.

JEDCO also opened up two trade centres in Gaza and Ramallah to promote bilateral business links and provide traders with price lists of Jordanian goods.

"The Palestinian market is huge and most of the products that reach this market come from Israel," he added.

Palestinian imports stand at \$3 billion a year, \$2.5 of which come from Israel.

Apart from several promotional campaigns that will be launched in West Bank towns this year, JEDCO will hold a trade fair in Gaza next year that will sell products directly to the public.

Israel plans to ease rules on commercial paper

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will be easing the rules governing the issuing of commercial paper, Treasury Director-general Ben-Zion Zilberfarb has said in a statement.

He said a capital markets committee he chairs was readying new rules that would end the stamp tax on commercial paper and the requirement that issuers publish a complete prospectus.

Zilberfarb said the new rules would also distinguish between larger and smaller issuers, giving wider latitude for bigger companies to make issues.

Yair Cohen, a treasury legal adviser, told Reuters the new rules would also enable Israeli companies listed overseas to issue commercial paper domestically.

The new rules would require legislative approval, he added. Zilberfarb was quoted as saying development of a domestic commercial paper market, which enables borrowers to lend money for short periods, would create new competition to bank lending.

In addition, Zilberfarb said he would be going to the Securities Authority soon with a proposal for simplifying the double-registration of Israeli companies on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and stock markets overseas. Zilberfarb said he hoped the recommendations would be implemented by the end of the year.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7343	0.6978	1.4237	133.70	1.5215	1712.85	1.9370	5.8164
DE Mark	0.5766	-	0.3446	0.8208	77.08	0.8770	867.35	1.1283	3.3633
GB Sterling	1.6728	2.9010	-	2.3911	223.63	2.5447	2864.74	3.2731	9.7279
CH Franc	0.7024	1.2177	0.4197	-	93.89	1.0683	1202.68	1.3741	4.0840
JP Yen	0.0076	1.2967	0.4468	1.0644	-	1.1376	12.81	146.32	4.3487
CA Dollar	0.6672	1.2916	0.4225	1.0586	1.14	-	1270.80	1.4561	4.3285
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0122	0.3489	0.8831	1282.71	0.8880	-	11.42	3.3948
NL Guilder	0.8110	88.80	0.3084	72.74	68.27	0.7773	876.02	-	2.9713
FR Franc	0.1719	0.2981	0.1027	24.4731	22.96	0.2615	33.64	33.6400	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7502	0.3770	3.6397	0.3046	3.6724	1617.00	3.4175
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2894	0.8317	5.1336	0.4296	5.1797	2189.63	4.6202
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1891	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0812	0.98	404.51	0.9113
Bahrain Dinar	2.86	1.8806	9.9475	-	9.86	0.8080	9.74	4023.87	9.0680
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0837	1.01	416.79	0.9380
Kuwait Dinar	3.2830	2.3276	12.3119	1.2377	11.95	-	12.06	4980.30	9.8390
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0212	1.0207	0.9911	0.0829	-	413.08	0.9306
Lebanese 1000	0.66	0.4674	2.4721	2.4685	2.3993	2.3908	2.4208	-	2.2628
Egyptian	0.2926	0.2075	1.0574	0.1103	1.0650	0.0891	1.0746	443.89	-

Energy					
Oil	Last	Review			
Brent	0.00	0.00			
W. Texas	14.66	14.67			
Bonny	0.00	0.00			
Dubai	12.37	11.95			
UL Gas	131.00	131.00			

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4626	0.15943	0.37977	35.6846
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.47239	0.16281	0.38761	36.4206
KW Dinar	3.2830	5.69476	1.96309	4.67508	438.174
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.80193	1.58504	3.77786	354.736
CY Pound	1.9504	3.3826	1.1658	2.7788	280.789

Metal Prices					
Metal	Bid	Offer			
Gold (oz's)	286.6	287.1			
Silver (oz's)	6.01	6.04			
Platinum (oz's)	365.2	367.2			
AL (3 Months)	1405	1409			
CU (3 Months)	1669	1674			
Zinc (3 Months)	1046	1049			
Lead (3 Months)	540	544			
NI (3 Months)	4330	4360			

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High
New York	DOW JONES	7640.26	-41.87	-0.55	7760.75
New York	S&P 500	973.89	-8.37	-0.85	991.41
London	FT-SE 100	5167	48.3	0.94	5194.9
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	14042.91	-218.33	-1.53	14185.9
Paris	CAC 40	3690.75	44.29	1.21	3726.1
Frankfurt	DAX	4820.25	8.07	0.17	4945.47

Energy					
Commodity	Last	Delivery			
Coffee (c/lbs)	113.42	Spot			
Cocoa (\$/ton)	2010	Spot			
Sugar (\$/ton)	234	Spot			
Wheat (\$/ton)	100	Spot			
Soya (c/lbs)	24.6	Spot			
Tea (c/lbs)	125	Spot			
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot			
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot			

JOD Cross Rates					
Currency	Buy	Sell			
US Dollar	0.708	0.710			
GB Sterling	1.1814	1.1873			
DE Mark	0.4077	0.4097			
CH Franc	0.4983	0.4988			
FR Franc	0.1219	0.1225			
JP Yen	0.5298	0.5324			
NL Guilder	0.3613	0.3631			
IT Lira	0.4128	0.4148			

Kuwait sees no need to devalue dinar

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's central bank governor has said his oil-rich state does not plan to devalue the national dinar currency to ease a growing budget deficit.

Devaluation "will harm the economy and damage Kuwait's credibility" on international financial markets, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah told Reuters by telephone.

He reiterated his long-held view that the central bank would not devalue the currency as a way to cut the budget deficit. The net deficit in the 1998/99 budget to end of June is projected at \$6 billion.

Such a move would "increase the problem and not solve it because Kuwait's only export is oil and it imports almost everything," he added.

"It could have a positive short term impact for say a year but not on the long run as the purchasing power drops with its negative social and economic effects."

The governor was responding to a story in a local Kuwaiti newspaper about devaluation rumours which he described as "baseless." Bankers in Kuwait had earlier told Reuters such a move was not planned as it could further hurt an economy suffering from a sharp drop in world oil prices to 10-year lows.

Tiny Kuwait depends almost solely on oil exports. "If we did really have the intention to do it (devaluation) we had the opportunity several times including just a few days ago but look at the (exchange) rate now."

"The dinar is stronger against the dollar today for three or four days ago," Sheikh Salem added.

On Saturday, the dinar was trading around 0.3051/0521 fils to the U.S. dollar.

There are 1,000 fils to the dinar. Unlike some of the other Arab Gulf states whose national currencies are pegged to the U.S. dollar, the Kuwaiti,

dinar is linked to a basket of currencies in which the U.S. dollar has a large weighting.

Neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, had earlier this week issued a similar statement, stressing that the kingdom had no plans to change the current exchange rate for its national rial currency which is pegged to the U.S. dollar.

Bank of Jordan holds seminar on 'treasury and investment operations'

A SEMINAR on "promoting and marketing Bank of Jordan's Treasury & Investment Services" was recently organised at Bank of Jordan head office in Shmeisani. The seminar — which was presided over by Treasury and Investment Executive Manager Walid Fakhouri, was attended by senior bank officials and

branch managers. A basket of investment services were presented to the audience.

The meeting was intended to galvanise and stimulate employees' efforts to disseminate and sell the bank's investment services with the purpose of attracting investors and increase their yield. It should be underlined that

these services are carried out by a highly qualified cadre with a vast experience in local and international money markets — carefully selected — provided with appropriate equipment necessary for their work.

In its fervent and continued pursuit to meet the proliferating needs of customers and

within the framework of assuming its role in support of the national economy and in order to stimulate investment, which comes in line with the Central Bank of Jordan and the Jordan Security Commission policies, the bank shall become the official custodian of customers' capital market instruments.

Furthermore, a special programme designed for this purpose was installed at the "Custody Service Unit" which permits concerned clients to monitor and follow up regularly their custody accounts and provides them with reports and information on their assets placed under the bank's custody.

The Local Desk is primarily concerned with managing the bank's daily liquidity as well as managing capital investment instruments including the purchase and sale of investment tools submitted by the Central Bank of Jordan or companies or other institutions in favour of the bank or the clients.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Singer Guthrie
- Corday's victim
- Romantic occasion
- Writer Below
- Island: It
- Fencer's sword
- Start of a Thomas Paine quote
- Inquire
- Bigfoot's size
- Like's arena
- Trolley
- Habituating
- Forbids
- One who applies oil
- Scandinavian men's names
- Aberdeen breed
- Govt. financial guru
- Relinquish
- More of the quote
- Advanced dogs
- "Got a Secret"
- Parade component
- Down at the (shabby)
- Shackles
- Comic Russell
- Inscribe
- Ice-cream holder
- Contend
- Kn of CHPs
- Bottle of brew
- End of the quote
- Thin coating
- Weirder
- Windmill element
- Spasm of doubt
- Software buyers
- Abba of Israel

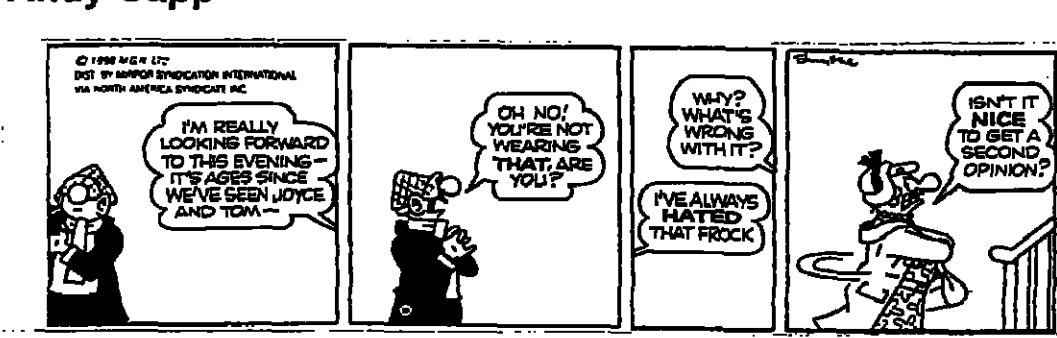
DOWN

- Cinema canine
- Beams
- Skulk about
- End of pay?
- Colliers
- So far
- Part to play
- Actress
- MacGraw
- Removed
- Disarm a bull
- Simian
- Aviv
- Slippery fish
- Approaches
- Sewing cases
- Coffee shop
- Mass of metal
- Hankierings
- Use piercing wit?
- Lawnlite
- Easily led
- Football team
- Rotten apple's associate?
- Magnani and
- Mallo
- In unison
- Heart-to-heart declaration?
- Le Pew of cartoons

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYHIF

SHIWK

DEWIST

LENZOZ

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOARD DOUGH SHEKEL SLUCE

Answer: Easy for a hating butcher to get — THE COLD SHOULDER

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Non-Jordanian stakes in banks rise

STATISTICAL DATA shows that the stakes of non-Jordanian equity in the capital of Jordanian banks has climbed to 55.39 per cent at the end of June 1998 from 55.79 per cent at the beginning of this year. Some sources expected the rate to have risen to more than 56 per cent at the end of last month in light of recent purchase deals by Arab and foreign investors on Jordanian bank shares.

The focus of non-Jordanian investors is on certain Jordanian banks, mainly the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank and the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) where non-Jordanian equity stands at 59.67 per cent, 74.25 per cent and 86 per cent respectively. Non-Jordanian equity is also high at the Jordan Kuwait Bank and

the Jordan Islamic Bank where the rates are 53.65 per cent and 53.76 per cent respectively.

The rate of non-Jordanian equity in the other Jordanian banks are as follows: the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (35.37 per cent); the Philadelphia Investment Bank (21.82 per cent); the Jordan National Bank (21.43 per cent); the Arab Jordan Investment Bank (20.93 per cent); the Middle East Investment Bank (18.60 per cent); the Industrial Development Bank (14.95 per cent); the Cairo Amman Bank (14.10 per cent); the Jordan Gulf Bank (9.31 per cent); the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (8.75 per cent) and the Bank of Jordan (8.59 per cent) (Al Ra'i).

Every 100 persons are served by 3.4 civil servants

IF THE number of government employees is divided by the total number of people, it will be found that every 100 persons are served by 3.4 civil servants, Civil Service Commission (CSC) Abdullah Olayyan said in a lecture recently. He indicated that the Jordanian administrative system is currently composed of 26 ministries, 23 central departments and 40 public institutions.

Olayyan detailed the composition of the civil service workforce by revealing that the total number is 144,700 employees, 63 per cent of whom are males. Of the total number, 100 officials are in the "high rank" classification which covers leadership posts. Below this level comes the "Grade A" classification which includes 1,000 officials.

In the "Grade 2" level, the total number of employees is about 41,000 followed by 47,000 other staff who hold community college certificates and general secondary

certificates. There are also the employees who work by contracts or on the basis of projects in addition to other who work in services.

The CSC chief pointed out that 40 per cent of the civil servants have university degrees and 46 per cent have the aforementioned certificates. Fourteen per cent of the employees have education that is less than the general secondary level.

Olayyan mentioned many observations about the administrative development experience and especially the diversification in development and reform plans. "The experience lacked the ongoing thrust and was politicized," he said adding that the political support that was given to it. "Furthermore the experience was manifested in the frailty of the relations between the concerned parties," the CSC chief concluded (Al Aswaq).

Banks plan to rescue cigarette company

AMMAN (J.T.) — To end the current row between the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company (JTCC) and creditor banks, a proposal is being put forward to restructure the company's capital and to allow the banks to become shareholders in the company.

Major creditor banks, including the Arab Bank, Jordan Kuwait Bank, Jordan Investment and Finance Bank, Grindlays Bank, Jordan and Gulf Bank and Cairo Amman Bank will present a memorandum today to Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani, including suggestions to

recover or guarantee their debts.

The creditor banks last Thursday held a meeting during which they considered alternatives for settling the dispute in a manner capable of guaranteeing their rights.

In the meeting, the creditor banks totally rejected the voluntary liquidation of the company, saying that it is one of the leading companies which had sole concession rights and positively contributed to the national economy.

The company's debt to these banks amounts to approximately JD12 million. Sources expected the dispute to be settled through capitalising part of the debt, and rescheduling the remaining part.

Brokers: Short-term outlook for AFM remains gloomy

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian shares fell again Saturday as the Amman bourse took only limited comfort from Central Bank plans to offer cheaper loans to industry to offset high interest rates.

The official 60-share Amman Financial Market (AFM) price index fell for a sixth straight trading day, slipping 0.71 per cent to 175.92 points, its lowest level since mid-July.

A handful of small industrial firms edged higher but banks, insurance and service sector companies were all down in a market in which 23 stocks fell and only nine rose.

Modest turnover of just JD590,000 (\$830,000) was dominated by trade in market giant Arab Bank, which fell 0.50 dinars to JD221 in deals worth half the total value of Saturday's trade on the bourse.

The other blue-chip to drag the bourse index down was Arab Potash, which continued its recent slide by falling again by the five per cent daily maximum to JD4.07.

The stock has been hit by a slump in the value of the company's Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) on international markets after poor half-year results.

Amer Muasher, head of foreign investment at National Securities, said selling pressure on Arab Potash remained.

Other brokers said the share was now close to the value of its GDR and was beginning to look like an attractive buy.

Nasser Al Amad, head of United Financial Investments, said a few industrial shares welcomed the Central Bank's announcement last week that it would make

more money available to specialist banks offering cheaper loans to industry and agriculture.

The announcement was aimed at offsetting the effects of high interest rates, which have climbed to over 11 per cent in the overnight inter-bank market. The Central Bank hiked its discount rate to nine per cent last month.

Vegetable oil producer Universal Modern Industries, the busiest share in terms of transactions, rose JD0.01 to JD0.55 while Jordan Sulpho Chemicals, which produces the raw materials for detergents, rose JD0.01 to JD0.40.

Brokers said the short-term outlook for the bourse remained gloomy.

"Generally speaking you cannot say the market will improve in the near future," Amad said.

Gold price edges up

AMMAN — Despite a slight increase in the prices of gold in the local market, the gold market remained slack, said Ghaleb Sakkiha, secretary general of the Jewellers Association. Sakkiha said the price of a gramme of gold rose by 250 fils on Friday, to reach JD5.850. He added that gold prices internationally are still fluctuating and unpredictable at this stage. There must be some factors are causing the prices to rise and then drop. As such, he said, it is difficult to predict future trends.

Egyptian beer sales booming despite absence of tourists

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's sole beer producer is finding its sales booming despite a drop in tourism, which has robbed it of many of its thirstiest customers.

Al Ahram Beverages Company (ABC) reported a 15 per cent sales jump during the fiscal year ending June 30 for its Stella alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Much of the beer sales were for non-alcoholic Stella, which is finding a growing audience among observant Muslims, the company said.

A terrorist attack in Luxor which killed 58 foreign tourists in November last year has dealt a heavy blow to the tourism industry, traditionally a big market for Egyptian beer sales.

Egypt still remains way behind Europe and Algeria and Turkey for

per-capita beer consumption.

Egyptians in 1996 drank a mere 0.82 liters (two pints) per person compared to four litres (eight pints) for Algerians, 10 litres (20 pints) for Turks, and 93 litres (186 pints) for Europeans, according to an industry study.

But the influence of Western culture and the development of tourism have caused an eight per cent annual increase in sales during the last five years.

ABC was privatised in March last year and taken over by the Egyptian-American Luxor group in association with Danish brewer Carlsberg.

The company currently enjoys an almost complete monopoly of the Egyptian beer market thanks to high taxes on imported beer.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1998

Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your work could become a little more fun, possibly involving a romantic attachment. If you're already in a relationship, you might start doing some sort of job with your partner. There's also a condition in effect that indicates your dreams could be coming true. Might as well push in that direction.

TURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your biggest problem for the next few weeks is attending all the fun activities to which you are invited. Today, there could be a conflict. You'll have to choose between two fabulous options. Well, maybe you could let your sweetheart decide. That would prove you're smart as well as lovable.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Looks like a couple of your friends are going at it. They see things from almost opposite points of view. Luckily you're off to one side, and you're pretty good commentator. Let them know what's going on, if they can't figure it out for themselves, and you'll be quite valuable. Stay objective, though, or they'll both turn on you.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Do you have a relative or loved one you haven't seen in a long time? Make contact now. It looks like there's a new attitude prevailing. If you, and this other person had a difference of opinion, don't dwell on it. It could have dissolved by now. Get back in touch with the love you share and let bygones be gone.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're going to have to be quick today to keep up with all the changes. You'll also have to be careful not to get sucked into an argument between friends. Don't add to the problem by choosing sides. Instead, try to be the arbitrator. It'll work better for all concerned if you maintain your objectivity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Conditions in effect now might stir up feelings from the past. Unsolved issues in past or current relationships could come to the fore. Just bring up the matter and discuss it, even if you have to do it by mail. You'll be amazed what kind of miracles can happen.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Conditions today could cause a bit of confusion. If you're running errands, for example, you could go to two or three stores before you find the thing you need. It always helps to be well organized in situations like this, and guess what? That's exactly what you are right now. This could turn out to be fun!

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The lunar eclipse today shows us the dilemma you'll be facing for the next several months. Part of your attention is directed to the ones you love best. The other part is directed to a group project, something you feel passionately about. If you can talk your loved ones into getting involved with the project, your worries are over.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are lots of things you'd love to run off and do today, and you probably will. Take care not to forget somebody who isn't saying much. You might have noticed somebody close to you who's in a rather pensive mood. It could even be your mom. Have you called in a while? Better do that first.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You could fall in love with somebody in a faraway country or in an educational setting, or both. If you're already in love, it would be romantic to take a class together, or travel to Europe, or take a class over there. You get the idea. Definitely do something educational today, whether you go far or not.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It'll be easier to get financing now, if that's what you want. It's a pretty good day to make a deal, too. People are in the mood to barter. If you figure out how much you can pay and stick to it, your odds of getting what you want are very good.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The person who's been tormenting you the most is about to get nicer. He or she may even apologise and ask your forgiveness. You can, of course withhold it and continue to be upset. But one of the things you're best at is forgiveness. It's highly recommended that you exercise that ability now.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI JEWELLERS. Whatever the occasion.

Amra Forum Hotel. Phone 5527118
Amman - Cairo - Rio

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
5667171 EXT. 223
OR
5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

STL	MLG	FRP
1712.85	1.9570	5.8190
987.35	1.1283	3.2690
2864.74	3.2731	9.7270
1202.68	137.41	4.2690
12.81	148.32	4.2690
1270.80	1.4551	4.2690
875.02	11.42	3.3960
33.64	33.6400	2.9710

AED	LBP	EGP
3.6724	1517.00	3.4710
6.1797	2138.91	4.8300
0.98	404.51	0.9110
9.74	4023.87	9.0900
1.01	416.79	0.9360
12.06	4860.30	0.8800
	410.08	0.8360
2.4208		2.2020
1.0746	443.89	

GBP	CHF	JPY
0.15943	0.37977	35.6000
0.16281	0.35781	36.4000
1.96309	4.67509	438.0000
1.58604	3.77786	364.7000
1.1658	2.7768	280.7000

Months	Months	Months
5.5938	5.5625	5.5800
7.5898	7.5156	7.5700
0.6211	0.6133	0.6100
3.5000	3.5820	3.5800
1.6563	1.7344	1.7300
3.5527	3.6035	3.6000
8.0930	4.6100	

High	Low	Pr Ch
7760.75	7495.81	7882.00
991.41	955.51	982.25
5194.9	5113.5	5181.0
14185.9	14042.9	14382.0
3726.1	3647.99	3846.00
4945.47	4765.33	4812.00

Currency	Buy	Sell
Dollar	0.708	0.710
Sterling	1.1614	1.1670
Mark	0.4077	0.4080
Franc	0.4963	0.4980
Franc	0.1219	0.1228
P Yen	0.0238	0.0239
Guilder	0.2513	0.2531
Lira	0.4128	0.4140

Operations

The Local Bank is concerned with managing its bank's daily liquidity as well as managing capital investment instruments including the purchase and sale of investment funds submitted to the Central Bank of Jordan companies or other institutions in favour of the bank's clients.

By Glasbergen



When I let her with the other good cats.

THAT SCRUBBLED WORLD CASE by Helen Arnold and Neil Gifford



KIDS CAN TURN PARK INTO THE

Now arrange the school desks in a circle. This is the best way to do it. It's a simple idea, but it works. It's a simple idea, but it works. It's a simple idea, but it works.

Sosa slams 57th as Cubs stay ahead of Mets

PITTSBURGH (AFP) — Sammy Sosa broke Hack Wilson's 68-year-old team record with his 57th homer Friday, pulling within two of Mark McGwire in the chase for the Major League home run record.

Cardinals slugger McGwire remained stuck at 59, three shy of surpassing Roger Maris' mark of 61. He had a pair of strike-outs and a walk against three Cincinnati pitchers in St. Louis on Friday.

The Reds won 3-2, continuing their dominance over McGwire and the Cards. McGwire, who was coming off consecutive two-homer games, is just 2-for-16 (.125) with four strikeouts and 12 walks against the Reds this season.

The Reds have won all seven games between the teams this season and 10 straight dating back to last season.

In Pittsburgh, Sosa broke up a scoreless game with his 12th first-inning homer, a blast to right-center field with two out on a 2-0 pitch from Jason Schmidt. It was his 16th homer to the opposite field.

In 1930 — a year played with a new, livelier ball — Wilson hit 56 homers and drove in a major-league record 190 runs for the Cubs.

His mark stood as the National League single-season homer record until Tuesday, when it was broken by McGwire.

Pinch-hitter Manny Alexander reached on an infield single off Mike Williams (3-2) with one out in the ninth and Jason Christiansen walked Lance Johnson and Mickey Morandini, loading the bases.

Sosa hit a grounder to third that Garcia was unable to handle, allowing Alexander to score the go-ahead run. Mark Grace followed with a two-run bloop single to right-center field.

Sosa, who watched from the Cubs dugout as McGwire's at-bats were shown on a giant TV, stuck to his prediction that McGwire would be the man to beat Maris' mark.

He said that was fine with him, as long as the Cubs make the playoffs.

"My team needs me right now," the Dominican Republic native said. "I want to take Chicago to the playoffs. It doesn't matter to me if I hit no more home runs. I want to go to the playoffs."

Friday's victory enabled the Cubs to remain in sole possession of first place in the NL wild-card race. Chicago holds a one-game advantage over the New York Mets, who defeated Atlanta.



Chicago Cubs right fielder Sammy Sosa drops his bat as he watches his 57th home run of the year sail into the right center field seats at Three River Stadium in Pittsburgh, Friday, during the first inning of the Cubs' game against the Pittsburgh Pirates (Reuters photo).

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — National League Baseball results after Friday's games.

Results:

MONTREAL	8	FLORIDA	0
CHICAGO CUBS	5	PITTSBURGH	2
NY METS	2	ATLANTA	1
PHILADELPHIA	6	MILWAUKEE	2
CINCINNATI	3	ST. LOUIS	2
COLORADO	11	SAN DIEGO	5
ARIZONA	3	HOUSTON	1
LOS ANGELES	8	SAN FRANCISCO	5

AMERICAN LEAGUE RESULTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American League Baseball results after Friday's games.

Results:

CLEVELAND	10	DETROIT	2
TORONTO	12	BOSTON	1
NY YANKEES	11	CHI WHITE SOX	6
TEXAS	9	MINNESOTA	3
KANSAS CITY	5	ANAHEIM	3
BALTIMORE	10	SEATTLE	1
TAMPA BAY	5	OAKLAND	2

Mark Johnson retains IBF flyweight crown

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) — Mark Johnson stopped Puerto Rican challenger Jose Laureano after six rounds here Friday to retain his International Boxing Federation flyweight title.

Johnson pummeled Laureano in two toe-to-toe exchanges in the sixth, finally dropping the challenger with a right uppercut.

Laureano sagged to his knees but got up before the count of 10 just seconds before the bell to end the round. Between rounds, however, his corner decided he wasn't fit to answer the bell for the seventh.

"Another title defence in the books," said the 27-year-old Johnson, who made his seventh defence of the crown. "It

wasn't one of my greatest showings, but we got the 'W'." Johnson improved to 36-1, 27 of his wins coming inside the distance. Laureano, 25, fell to 15-4-1 with eight knockouts.

Laureano was effective intermittently against the southpaw champion, but evidently relied too much on his belief that Johnson, who had trouble making the weight, would tire in the later rounds.

Johnson had to lose four pounds on Thursday to make the 112-pound limit, but apparently it didn't rob him of any power.

"I got stronger as the fight went on," he said. "Yeah, I had to sweat down a little bit, but I made it OK."

The experience might give

Johnson more motivation to step up to the 115-pound division, something he has already talked of doing.

Johnson believes that promotional differences will prevent him from getting the chance to unify the flyweight crown. Hugo Soto currently holds the World Boxing Association version and Chatchai Sasakul the World Boxing Council version.

"We can't unify the division, the only thing we can do is move up," said Johnson, who is particularly interested in a fight with IBF junior bantamweight champ Johnny Tapia. "We've got some great fights at 115."

Tottenham sack Gross

LONDON (AFP) — English Premiership club Tottenham on Saturday sacked Swiss coach Christian Gross after less than a year in charge and just three games into the new season.

The north London club announced in a statement that Gross, who joined the club in November 1997, was leaving

with immediate effect. "The statement read: 'The board of Tottenham Hotspur regretfully announce the departure of head coach Gross with immediate effect.'

"For the present, our director of football David Pleat, will take temporary charge together with Chris Hughes and the existing coaching staff.

"This will enable the club to take a sensible time in making the next very important appointment of our new head coach."

Gross becomes the second Premiership coach to be fired in the new season, following Newcastle's sacking of Kenny Dalglish after just two games.

Jones wins again as trio split Golden League jackpot

MOSCOW (R) — Marion Jones won her 18th consecutive 100 metres race at the Grand Prix final on Saturday to ensure she will leave Moscow this weekend with well over \$500,000 in prize money.

The American world champion clocked 10.83 seconds after four false starts in the final race of the day for her 32nd victory in all events this season.

Jones picked up \$200,000 as the overall women's Grand Prix champion plus \$100,000 as the 100 metres and long jump champion.

In addition she split the Golden League one million dollar jackpot with Hicham El Geurrouj and Haile Gebrselassie, who also won each of their events at the six Golden League meetings plus Saturday's Grand Prix final.

World record holder El Geurrouj won the 1,500 metres and the overall men's title on Saturday while world 10,000 metres champion Gebrselassie won the 3,000.



Marion Jones of the United States celebrates her victory in 100 metres women competition of Golden League Grand Prix final in Moscow on Saturday. Jones will share the Golden League million dollar jackpot with Hicham El Geurrouj of Morocco and Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia (Reuters photo)

American 400 metres hurdles champion Bryan Bronson, the fourth athlete in contention for a share of

the jackpot, finished fifth in the opening event of the afternoon.

World champion Stephane Diagana of France overhauled Bronson in the final metres to win in 48.30 seconds.

Muscle builders: Do they work, are they safe?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dietary supplement that baseball's Mark McGwire uses to recover from injuries and boost his strength has never been well-studied, leaving doctors unsure how it works or how safe it is.

But because the supplement, androstenedione, is essentially a building block of the male hormone testosterone, some researchers believe it has risks, especially for young people going through puberty who could face stunted growth or even liver damage.

"If you're going to take something, basically, you have to know the consequences. Mark McGwire is certainly old enough to make his own decision, but we worry about the role model," said Dr. Gary A. Green of the University of California at Los Angeles, who heads the National Collegiate Athletic Association's drug testing committee.

Although allowed by baseball, androstenedione is banned by the NCAA, where athletes face a one-

year suspension for using it, and by the National Football League and the Olympics. The supplement, a precursor of testosterone, is a body energiser. It is much safer than direct use of testosterone, but even so, young people should not take it, says an advocate of the supplement, Dr. Ward Dean, director of research and development for Vitamin Research Products in Carson City, Nevada, which sells it.

"High school students ... should not be taking this and the reason is because it may cause premature closure of the growth plates in bone [stunting their growth]," Dean said. "For sure, people under 21 or so should not take it," he said, noting that those age groups have naturally high levels of testosterone anyway.

McGwire says he has used androstenedione for more than a year to recover quickly from minor injuries. Both he and his team note the supplement is a natural, legal substance and insist there is no evidence of side effects.

Zberg takes opening Tour of Spain stage

CORDOBA (AFP) — Switzerland's Marcus Zberg, riding for the Post Swiss Team, won the 161.7km opening stage of the Tour of Spain here on Saturday in a sprint finish.

Zberg beat Italian Giuliano Figueras and Frenchman Laurent Jalabert in a time of 4 hours 11 minutes 8 seconds.

Spain's Francisco Cerezo,

who along with Venezuelan Unai Extebarria made the only escape of the day before both were reined in, gave the home fans some cheer by establishing himself as the early mountains leader.

Sunday's second stage, the longest in the race, covers a 234.6km stretch from Cordoba to Cadiz.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

First floor apartment in an attractive location in Shmeisani. Consists of 3 bedrooms (one master), 3 bathrooms, large salon, sitting room, dining room, 2 balconies and kitchen. Area: 250 sq.m. Location: Top of King Abdullah Gardens. For more details, please contact Tel.: 5662255

SECRETARY REQUIRED

A company is in need of a Secretary with the following qualifications:

- * Proficiency in using computer.
- * Excellent typing in English language.
- * At least 1 year experience.

Interested please call Tel.: 4772818

Furnished Flat For Rent

Consists of 2 bedrooms, sitting, living and dining rooms, with separate heating and telephone. Located in a building of 3 flats only, each in one floor, near Medina Street. Please call 5346162.

N.B. A Furnished Villa at the 7th Circle is also available for rent.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Near Amra Hotel Fully equipped — 240 sq.m. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, salon, dining room, living room, large kitchen 8x4, separate central heating, telephone & satellite. Please contact owner directly at: 5513471

five shrine

was a member of Cup championship 1950 to 1952 and Frank Sedgman to only men's doubles sweep in 1951. He at by losing the 1952 final. as a London tennis 1950 to 1953 a the governing body anis before the ATP Kelleher is a former Association president

Hehan Lane Theatre TEL: 4625155

ATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

MERCEDES 300 SE FOR SALE

(Duty Unpaid)

Mercedes 300 SE, 1990, blue black, black leather, power seats, power windows, sunroof, AC, airbag, ABS, ASR, auto-transmission, radio/cassette, ... "Fully Loaded." In excellent condition.

Interested ppl. please contact 079-29477 or 416 1882/Mazen

LAND CRUISER PRADO FOR SALE

Duty unpaid, 15 months old, VX 3400cc, full options including elec. sunroof, ABS, twin airbags, electronic winch, leather seats, CD player... etc. 25,000 km only, like new, met grey colour. \$25,000

Tel.: 5522668

VACANCY

The American Embassy in Amman has the following vacancy:

Chauffeur: to drive all types of vehicles, mostly passenger cars, and to be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of assigned vehicle. Applicants must have completed secondary school; two years of safe driving experience; good working level of English; valid driving license up to 5-ton vehicle; and good physical fitness.

Only qualified applicants should submit an application form (available at the Embassy gate) to the Personnel Office prior to September 17, 1998.

On the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation

The Jordan Design and Trade Center Noor Al Hussein Foundation cordially invites you to

A Collective Exhibition

of the various productions of the Foundation including rugs, embroidery, tapestry, ceramics, silver jewelry and traditional handicrafts

the exhibition will run from 5/9/1998 until 12/9/1998



The Jordan Design and Trade Center Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Tel. 5669141/2 Opening hours 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM [Off Wadi Saqra Street, between King Abdullah Gardens & Safeway, 2nd right after the gas station]

Taleban: Strong possibility Iranian diplomats were killed

Agencies

A SENIOR Taleban official said Saturday that there was a "strong possibility" that Iranian diplomats reportedly taken hostage by the Islamic militia in Afghanistan had been killed.

"The possibility of their being killed is strong," Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmad Mutawakkil said in a telephone interview with Iran's Ahrar newspaper.

He said the Taleban "will come up with an answer" on the fate of the 10 diplomats and a correspondent of the official IRNA news agency within a week, or a trilateral commission made up of the Taleban, Iran and Pakistan will investigate the matter under an agreement reached this week.

"Within the next week we will try to find the bodies of the dead diplomats," Mutawakkil said.

"If the search fails, then we will launch a probe in Mazar-i-Sharif," the city in northern Afghanistan where

the Iranians were allegedly seized, he said.

The Iranians disappeared after the militia stormed into Mazar-i-Sharif, a former stronghold of the Iranian-backed anti-Taleban alliance, on August 8 and raided the Iranian consulate there.

The Taleban have repeatedly denied seizing the diplomats, but Iran insists they are being held in Kandahar, a militia power centre in eastern Afghanistan.

"No one was at the [Iranian] consulate. It is possible that Taleban forces have wanted to kill them without an order from above," Mutawakkil said. "They had no business to be there."

Asked whether the possible murderers of the Iranians would be punished, Mutawakkil said "it depends on our future negotiations with Iran."

He accused the diplomats and other Iranians arrested in Afghanistan of "interfering in Afghan affairs."

They were arrested in various battles," he said.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said Thursday that Sunni Muslim Taleban forces had massacred thousands of members of the country's Shiite Muslim minority Hazara community while flushing out the opposition from Mazar-i-Sharif.

According to Amnesty, the 10 Iranian diplomats and Iranian journalist "are said to have been killed when Taleban guards entered the Iranian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif."

The Washington Post reported Saturday quoting senior U.S. defence and administration officials that Iran has massed troops and aircraft on its border with Afghanistan and is preparing an "imminent" attack on the Taleban regime.

Iran began massing troops, tanks, missile batteries and heavy artillery in the region over the week under the cover of a military exercise, the Post reported.

The Iranians are "close to

panic-stricken," an unnamed senior official told the Post.

"U.S. analysts believe Iran wants to deny the Taleban recognition as a legitimate government of Afghanistan and is intent on breaking its hold over some territory it now controls," the Post reported.

The U.S. officials believe that if fighting breaks it will be long and bloody, because neither country has a definite military advantage.

If a conflict erupts "we don't have a favourite horse in this fight," an unnamed top U.S. official told the Post.

Currently the Taleban controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul.

Iran has some 35,000 soldiers on its northeast border with Afghanistan, as well as 25 attack airplanes, 80 T-72 tanks, two SA-6 mobile missile batteries, 90 heavy artillery pieces and 60 armoured vehicles, the U.S. officials told the Post.

Nine women sign up for Iran's top assembly

TEHRAN (AFP) — Nine women have signed up to stand in next month's election for Iran's Experts Assembly as authorities decided to admit females and non-clerics to the hitherto male cleric-dominated body, the interior ministry said Saturday.

A total of 396 people have enrolled for the October 23 poll, including 47 lay people, said Deputy Interior Minister Mostafa Taj Zadeh.

Iranians aged over 15 are eligible to vote for 86 people to serve an eight-year term in the Experts Assembly, which was set up after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

It is tasked with electing the country's supreme leader, a powerful position presently held by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and also has the power to oust him.

The assembly has until

now been controlled by male clerics, mainly conservatives, but authorities have come under pressure to allow women and non-clerics in keeping with the democratic spirit created after the election of moderate President Mohammad Khatami in May 1997.

After a month of debate, the Council of the Guardians, a conservative cleric-dominated body which screens candidates, said Saturday that women and non-clerics could run.

"There is no legal ban against women and non-clerics," council member Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani told the official IRNA news agency. "Men, women, clerics or non-clerics could qualify if they meet the moral and political requirements and have the right knowledge specified in the law."

He said candidates with a well-established reputation will automatically pass.

while others will have to complete scholarly research on religious matters to "indicate that they have reached the necessary scientific and religious rank."

Members of the assembly are required to be "famously religious" and have reached some level of "Ejtemad," the highest religious rank in Shiite Islam.

Some candidates would undergo tests overseen by professors at the school of theology in Qom, a holy city in central Iran, Kashani said. "We have no choice but to investigate their background."

Ahead of the last assembly election in 1990, the Council of the Guardians rejected many left-leaning candidates, prompting criticism that it was biased towards the conservatives.

Iranian moderates and leftists have now pushed to deprive the council of the

right to screen candidates, demanding that they be directly approved by senior clerics in holy cities, who are deemed to be more neutral.

Newspapers said Saturday that a number of prominent leftists and moderates, some of whom were rejected in the last election, had signed up again in the hope of creating a political balance in the assembly.

Several conservative clerics have voiced fear that the admission of clerics could lead to reform and weaken the status of Velayat-e-Faqih, the position occupied by the leader.

The assembly is the backbone of the Islamic regime and was invented to ensure its survival.

But reformers close to Khatami want the body to be subject to the same democratic criteria as other institutions.

Iraq accuses Britain, U.S. of fabricating crisis

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq accused Britain and the United States Saturday of fabricating crisis over arms inspections and warned once again it would retaliate if the United Nations cancels a sanctions review due next month.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf, stopping off in Cairo on his way home from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in South Africa, charged that the United States has already decided not to lift the eight-year embargo.

Sahhaf said there was no "problem or crisis" between Iraq and the United Nations "but the United States and Britain continue to try to create crises with Iraq from time to time."

"Whenever the aggressive policies of Washington and London collapse in some place, the two countries begin to create trouble for Iraq. We in Iraq are far from seeking to create a crisis," he said, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported.

The United States had "already decided not to lift the sanctions" and was "pushing the Security Council to fabricate a crisis," he charged.

Britain and the United States introduced a draft resolution to the Security Council Thursday calling for the cancellation of a scheduled review in October of the sanctions slapped on

Iraq for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The draft also provides for the subsequent suspension of two-monthly reviews until Baghdad rescinds its decision on August 5 to halt cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq.

Such a resolution would be the council's first concrete reaction to the Iraqi decision to freeze cooperation.

But it contains no threat of force, unlike during the last five-month crisis with Iraq which was only defused in February following an intervention by U.N. chief Kofi Annan.

Iraq however warned it would not tolerate cancellation of the review.

"Iraq cannot treat in the abstract such negative and hostile Security Council resolutions which would be adopted under U.S. pressure," said official newspaper Al Jumhuria.

If the council adopts the resolution "Iraq will be obliged to take new measures in the light of the leadership's decision on August 5," it said.

"It is pointless to continue cooperation with UNSCOM and the United Nations must lift oil embargo," Al Jumhuria said, adding that Baghdad "cannot wait forever."

In Cairo, Sahhaf also denied press

reports of fighting last week between the Iraqi army and opposition forces in the southern town of Nassiriya.

"Repeating such lies conforms perfectly with the eternal rumours of a crisis between the U.N. and Baghdad and of the existence of an internal crisis. It's a game the enemies of Iraq play frequently."

But Sahhaf said Iraq had won support from the Non-Aligned summit in Durban and described the final declaration as "good."

NAM members "clearly showed solidarity with Arab causes," especially on the questions of Palestine and Iraq, he said.

NAM leaders reiterated that sanctions regimes should be clearly defined and "lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved."

"They should be imposed for a specified time-frame and based on tenable, legal grounds," said the final declaration.

Under U.N. resolutions adopted after the 1991 Gulf war, the crippling oil embargo imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can only be lifted when the arms inspectors certify the dismantling of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Bakri, Muslim target of new British anti-terror laws?

LONDON (AFP) — Defenders of tough new anti-terrorist laws just passed in Britain point to Omar Bakri Mohammed, a virulent Islamist who claims to speak for renegade Saudi billionaire Osama Ben Laden, as justification.

The measures which came into force Friday are chiefly aimed at crushing dissident armed groups in Northern Ireland, but they also introduce a new offence of conspiring in Britain to commit terrorist acts abroad.

Critics, notably in the British media, say Bakri's support of anti-American attacks or calls for vengeance for the recent U.S. raids on Afghanistan and Sudan fall into this category.

Bakri, head of the Islamic Al Muhajirun (the exile) move-

ment, also claims to be spokesman for the International Islamic Front of Ben Laden, currently Washington's public enemy number one for allegedly staging last month's car bomb attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es-Salaam.

Bakri denies he preaches violence, while adding that there is a war between Muslims and unbelievers which implies civilian deaths.

His movement's communiqués always end, "USA, you must pay," underlining Bakri's view that the United States and its President Bill Clinton — dubbed "the murdering adulter-er" — are responsible for such offences as "occupying" Saudi Arabia and starving the Iraqi people.

Muslims have a duty to support physically, verbally and financially the Jihad, or holy war, against the occupiers of Muslim land, who range from the Israelis to the Serbs in Kosovo, Bakri says.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1958, Bakri was thrown out of Syria for his membership of the Muslim Brotherhood organisation, and came to Britain, being granted political asylum in 1994, nine years after his arrival.

His movement, founded in Saudi Arabia, has links in such countries as Lebanon, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In Britain he joined the extremist Hizb-ut-Tahrir (Party of Liberation) and developed close links with Islamic leaders worldwide.

Apart from Ben Laden, whose videotapes are distributed at meetings organised by Al Muhajirun, his associates include Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, jailed for life in the United States for the bombing of the World Trade Centre, and chiefs of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah and Pakistan's Islamist Jamaat-Islami Party.

His contacts in London include Saudi dissident Muhammad Al Masaari, Yasser Al Serri, an Islamist of Egypt's Gamaa Islamiyah who is under sentence of death in his own country, and Abu Hamzah Al Masri, otherwise known as Al Ansa' Al Shariyah, who is close to both Algerian and Egyptian Islamists.

Heavily-built, with a broad

face and an easy smile behind the obligatory beard, Bakri is an impressive orator, bringing an air of theatre to the meetings he stages in poor immigrant districts of London.

Backed by posters proclaiming that "Islam will dominate the world," he paints a glowing picture to an audience of veiled women on one side and men on the other of an Islamic state under the rule of Sharia law.

No existing political regime finds favour in his eyes, not even the hardline rule of Afghan's Taleban, who are accused of ignorance.

"You are the front line of the Islamic state, you are the fifth column," he tells his audience of immigrants from every Muslim country, plus some British con-

verts.

"Do not integrate, interact to change society," he warns, slamming those who become assimilated into Western society as "chocolate Muslims who melt down."

Bakri castigates the new anti-terror laws as one more example of Western hypocrisy.

"When I first arrived here, I was told about hospitality, liberty of expression and freedom," he recalls, adding, "the new legislation assassinates these great principles of the West that are meaningless."

And he predicts confidently, "If I am deported someone else will take my place. Nothing will stop us."



TAKING A RIDE: A dog sitting on a tricycle rickshaw moves through waist-deep floodwater in Dhaka's Basabo street on Saturday. The devastating flood already claimed more than 700 lives and affected 30 million people (AP photo)

Investigators uncover details on bombing of American embassies

DAR ES SALAAM (AP)

Investigators in the Aug. 7 bombing of the American embassy in Tanzania said Saturday they had made "extraordinary discoveries," having determined what the bomb was made of and who carried it to the embassy.

"Investigators have made extraordinary discoveries," said Kenneth Piernick, head of FBI investigators in Tanzania. "They are now well aware of the composition of the bomb and are also well aware how the device was delivered and who delivered it."

He refused to elaborate.

Adadi said one of the suspects arrested is Tanzanian and the other is a foreigner. He would not identify the foreigner or his nationality, but did not deny media reports that the suspect was Sudanese.

Twin bombings at U.S. embassies in Tanzania and the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Aug. 7 killed 257 people. 11 of them in Tanzania. More than 5,400 people were injured in Kenya and more than 70 in the Tanzanian commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

"Police have some leads regarding the event," Adadi said, speaking in Swahili. "They know who took the device to the embassy, and they also know some of the people responsible for the event and others whose roles have not yet been proven."

He said the three informants had all participated in the preparations for the bombing, mostly unwittingly, and were now cooperating with the investigation.

Media reports in Tanzania

(Continued on page 3)

Khatami orders crackdown on Islamist vigilantes

TEHRAN (AFP)

President Mohammad Khatami ordered a crackdown Saturday on Islamist vigilante groups after an assault on two leading moderate officials close to the Iranian leader, state television said.

"We cannot tolerate the propagation of violence whoever it comes from. The authorities must not dither or show mercy in dealing with this ugly act from a small group who bear vengeance against the rule of law and freedom," Khatami said in a message read on television.

"The law-breakers, who are either ignorant or have a mission, understand no logic but force. You must put them in their place," he said in the first such directive since taking office a year ago.

Khatami's order came after Islamists attacked Abdullah Nouri, vice president for social affairs and development, and Ataollah Mohajerani, minister for culture and Islamic guidance, here Friday.

The assault occurred during a funeral procession attended by thousands of people for 700 Iranian sol-

diers killed during the 1980-88 war with Iraq whose remains were repatriated recently.

Newspapers said some 80 assailants shouting "Death to liberal Nouri," "Death to supporters of liberalism" and "Incompetent minister, resign, resign" beat up first Nouri and then Mohajerani.

Mohajerani hurt a finger and was taken to a clinic for treatment while Nouri, a cleric, had his turban knocked off his head.

Khatami asked the intelligence ministry and police to

(Continued on page 3)



Pregnant Spice Girl to wed

LONDON (AFP)

The most outrageous member of the Spice Girls singing group, Melanie Brown, is to wed her boyfriend, dancer Jimmy Gulzar, in a week. The Sun tabloid said Saturday, Brown, known as Mel B, or "Scary Spice," who is three months pregnant, will marry in her home town of Leeds, in northern England. The Sun said, revealing the details of what it said would be a private ceremony. The paper said the three other members of the group had been asked to be bridesmaids and the bride, 23, would be wearing a top hat and a white dress decked out with leopard skin.

Flanders to restore

Ruben rooms at Hermitage museum

MOSCOW (AFP)

The Belgian region of Flanders is to undertake the complete restoration of the rooms in St. Petersburg's Hermitage museum containing the unparalleled collection of works by Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The report said the museum's Rubens gallery would be renovated from top to bottom and the works of the 17th century artist given new lighting and protection with the latest technology in a project sponsored by the UNESCO.

U2 signs record contract

LONDON (AFP)

Irish rock band U2 has signed an unprecedented contract worth \$50 million with record company Polygram, to bring out three albums of already-recorded hits. The Financial Times said Saturday. The first of the three "Best of..." compilations will be on sale in November in time for the Christmas buying season. The Financial Times said that although other stars such as Madonna and Janet Jackson had concluded contracts as large, they were for new titles. In 20 years U2 have brought out 10 albums and sold more than 87 million records throughout the world.

Boxer Mohammad

Ali, actor Ed Asner to take aid to Cuba

MIAMI (AFP)

Ageing boxing champion Mohammad Ali and actor Ed Asner have received U.S. permission to travel to Cuba next week with \$20 million in medical aid. The Miami Herald reported Friday. Ali travelled to Cuba two years ago on a similar mission but the trip is Asner's first to the communist island. The U.S. groups Disarm Education Fund and Direct Relief International, which recycles medical equipment and donates it, is sponsoring the trip.

Loren isolated

in convalescence in New York

VENICE (AP)

Sophia Loren's doctors have her under such close care that she wasn't allowed to type or telephone her thanks for a Venice Film Festival Award — and even her own husband hasn't been allowed to see her, a newspaper reported Saturday. "The doctors are inflexible: Sophia must not become emotional, must not speak of anything that would remind her of work," producer-husband Carlo Ponti was quoted as saying in an interview with Corriere della Sera daily.

Arabs to dis for Lock

CAIRO (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said Saturday that the Arab League would not accept a U.S. proposal to allow Israel to build a wall around the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying it would be a "step-by-step" process.

Volume 23

Regge

allian

We have

regional

By Tarek Ayyoub

GULAN — The Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said Saturday that the Arab League would not accept a U.S. proposal to allow Israel to build a wall around the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying it would be a "step-by-step" process.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a step-by-step process, and we will not accept it until we see a clear commitment from the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to accept the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

There is a